



48 PAGES--EVERY WEEK!

ACTION

COMICS WEEKLY

NO. 640

\$1.50

CAN \$1.85

U.K. 60p



**WILD
DOG**™

PLUS: DEMON ·
SPEEDY · PHANTOM LADY
SUPERMAN · HERO HOTLINE

"LOOK AT HIM. I'LL BET HE VOTES REPUBLICAN, PAYS HIS TAXES AND THINKS OF HIMSELF AS A REGULAR, LAW ABIDING GUY."



"SIT ACROSS FROM HIM ON THE BUS AND YOU'D THINK, 'GEE, SALT OF THE EARTH. WISH WE HAD MORE LIKE HIM.'"

"HE'S SCARED THEY'RE ALL SCARED."



"AMAZING, ISN'T IT, WHAT FEAR CAN DO TO A MAN."

"IT STARTED AS A ROUTINE MISSING PERSONS INVESTIGATION. IT WAS GOING TO END, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, IN A HOSPICE FOR TERMINALLY ILL VICTIMS OF AIDS."



"I'M THE SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN, AND I SAY YOU SHOULD GO UPSTAIRS WITH THE OTHERS."

"YEAH, WELL, I'M THE GUY WITH THE ARROWS, AND I'LL STICK AROUND THE WINDOWS, IF YOU DON'T MIND."



"WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT WE GOT."

"WHAT'S THE STORY WITH THE POLICE? AREN'T WE GOING TO GET ANY MORE HELP?"

"SE NOS OUT!"

"THEN YOU'D BETTER HEAD UPSTAIRS, 'CAUSE WE'VE GOT COMPANY."

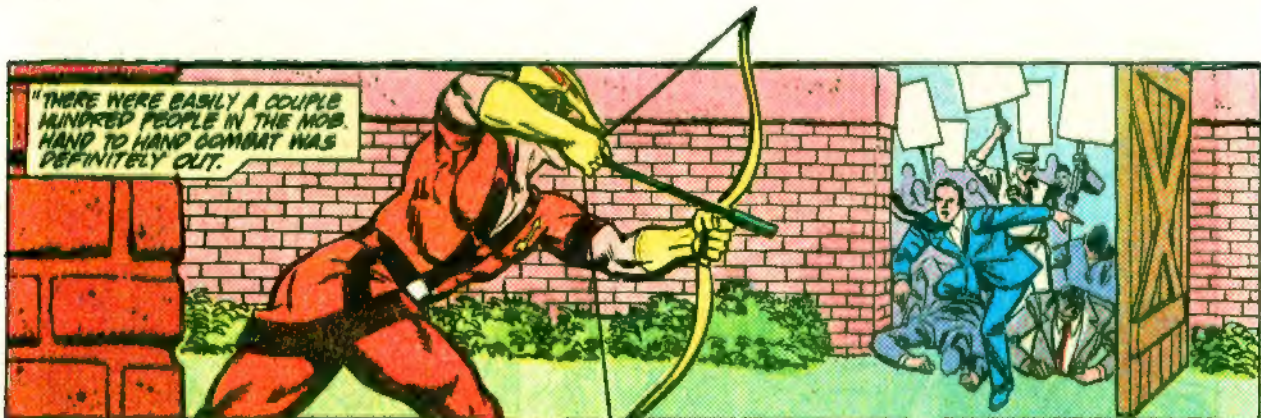


"FAGS OUT!"

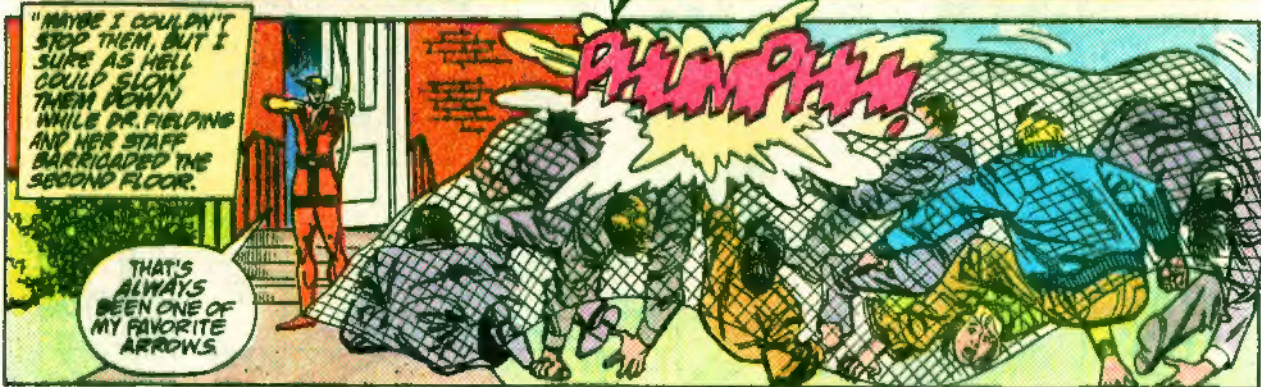
"WE WAN OUR RIGHT 64389"

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EXILES II



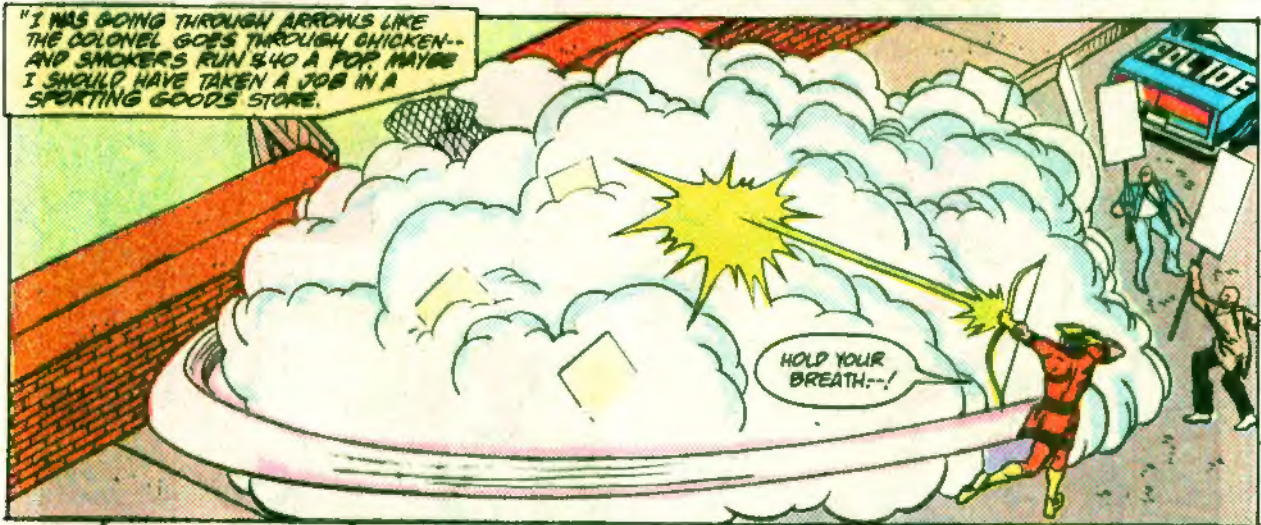
"THERE WERE BASICALLY A COUPLE HUNDRED PEOPLE IN THE MOB. HAND TO HAND COMBAT WAS DEFINITELY OUT."



"MAYBE I COULDN'T STOP THEM, BUT I SURE AS HELL COULD SLOW THEM DOWN WHILE DR. FIELDING AND HER STAFF BARRICADED THE SECOND FLOOR."

PHUMPH!

THAT'S ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF MY FAVORITE ARROWS.



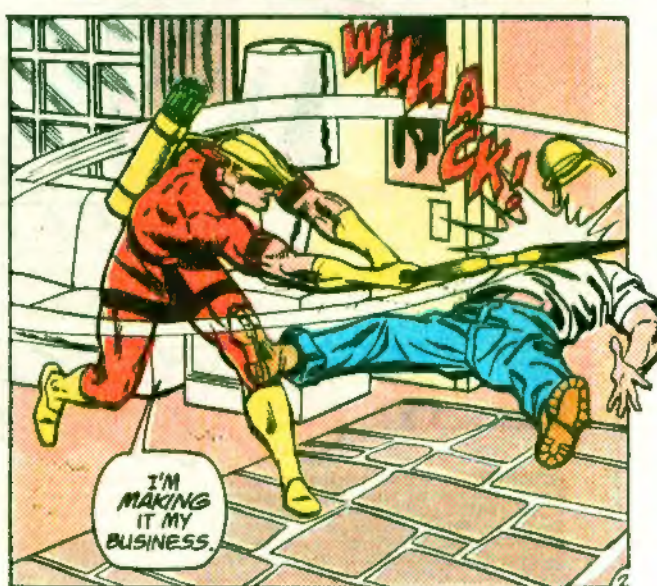
"I WAS GOING THROUGH ARROWS LIKE THE COLONEL GOES THROUGH CHICKEN-- AND SMOKER'S RUN & GO A POP MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN A JOB IN A SPORTING GOODS STORE."

HOLD YOUR BREATH--!



HE'S JUST ONE MAN-- WE CAN HANDLE HIM!

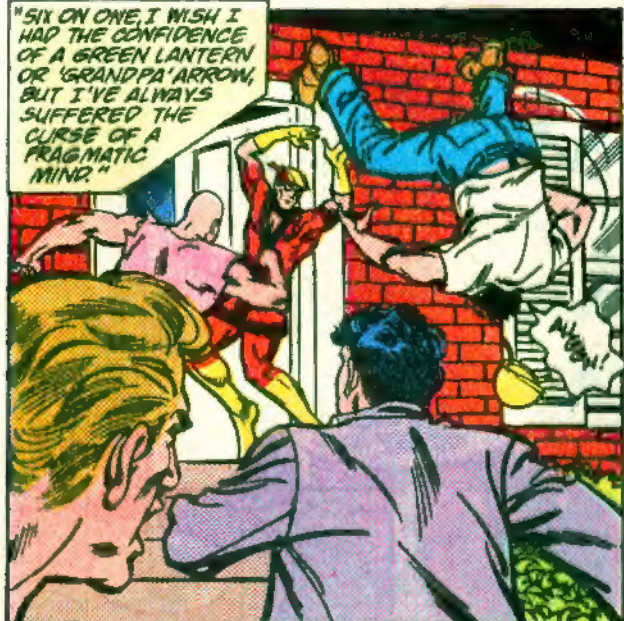
#HACK HACK#-- THIS IS OUR NEIGHBORHOOD-- IT'S NONE OF HIS BUSINESS!



WHACK!

I'M MAKING IT MY BUSINESS.

"SIX ON ONE I WISH I HAD THE CONFIDENCE OF A GREEN LANTERN OR 'GRANDPA' ARROW, BUT I'VE ALWAYS SUFFERED THE CURSE OF A FRAGMATIC MIND."



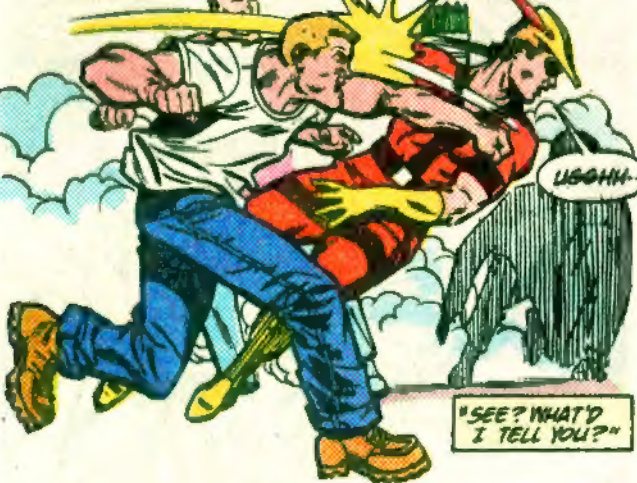
"I WAS GOING TO GET MY BUTT KICKED."



HOLD HIM TIGHT!

WIN BOY!

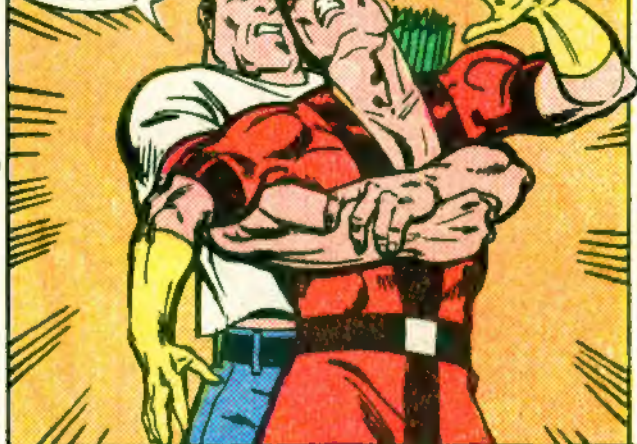
WHHHACKK!



UGGHH!

"SEE? WHAT'D I TELL YOU?"

YOU'RE NOT WALKING AWAY FROM THIS ONE--!



ARRGH!

"I'D DRAWN THEIR ATTENTION AWAY FROM THE HOSPICE, BUT TALK ABOUT A SMALL CONSOLATION."



ALL RIGHT, PUNK. PUT THE KID DOWN.

OH MY GOD, IT'S DIRTY HARRY.

CLOSE, THAT WAS EASTWOOD.

"I WAS SECONDS FROM BLACKING OUT WHEN SUDDENLY, EMERGING FROM THE SMOKE LIKE SOME MYTHIC WARRIOR, MOVIE LEGEND SEAN BAUMANN MADE A, ERR, 'GUEST' APPEARANCE."

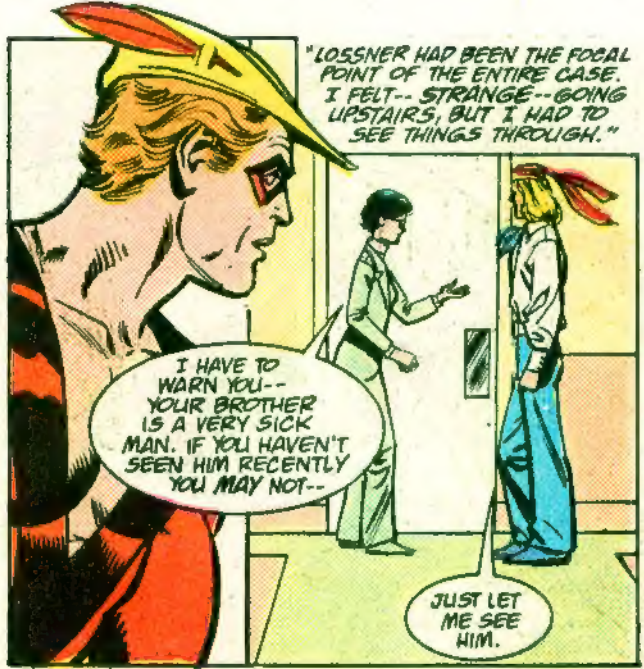


"IT WAS AMAZING. I'D BEEN SHOOTING NETS AND SMOKE LIKE A MAN POSSESSED AND I HADN'T EVEN SLOWED 'EM DOWN. ONE LOOK AT BALMIAN AND THE MOB FROZE LIKE POPSICLES."



--I'M SORRY, BUT ONLY BLOOD RELATIONS ARE ALLOWED UPSTAIRS--

I'M HERE TO SEE MY BROTHER. MY NAME IS PHILLIP LOSSNER.



"LOSSNER HAD BEEN THE FOCAL POINT OF THE ENTIRE CASE. I FELT-- STRANGE-- GOING UPSTAIRS, BUT I HAD TO SEE THINGS THROUGH."

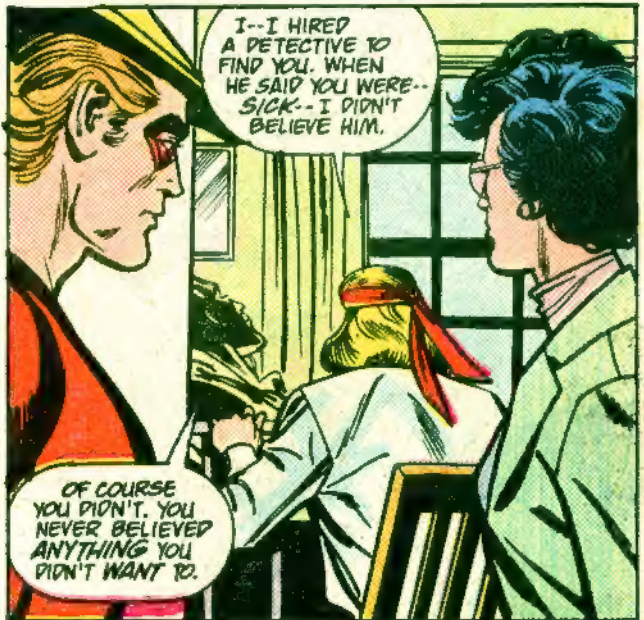
I HAVE TO WARN YOU-- YOUR BROTHER IS A VERY SICK MAN. IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM RECENTLY YOU MAY NOT--

JUST LET ME SEE HIM.



DONNIE ? IT'S ME-- PHIL.

GO AWAY.



I--I HIRED A DETECTIVE TO FIND YOU. WHEN HE SAID YOU WERE-- SICK-- I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM.

OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T. YOU NEVER BELIEVED ANYTHING YOU DIDN'T WANT TO.



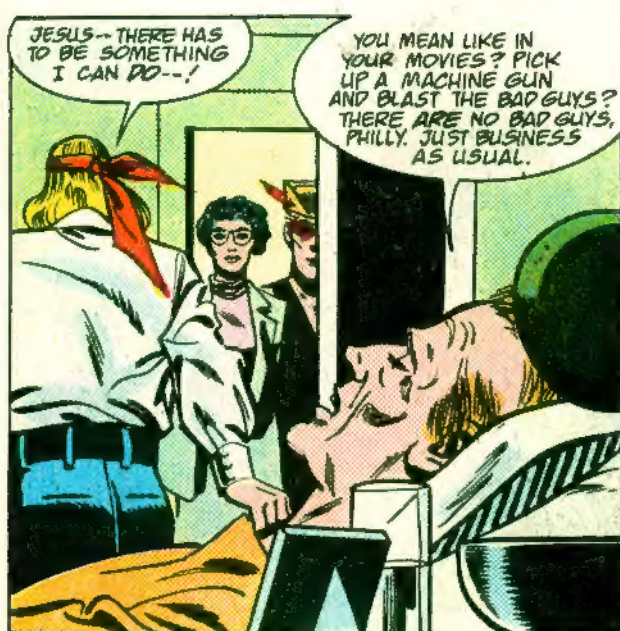
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, ISN'T IT ?

WE ALWAYS LIVED IN DIFFERENT WORLDS, YOU AND ME. WHEN THE FACTS OF MY LIFE DIDN'T JIBE WITH YOUR HE-MAN FANTASIES, YOU JUST PRETENDED OTHERWISE.

WELL, YOU CAN'T PRETEND ANYMORE. IT'S TOO LATE.



I HAVE AIDS, PHILLY. I'M DYING.



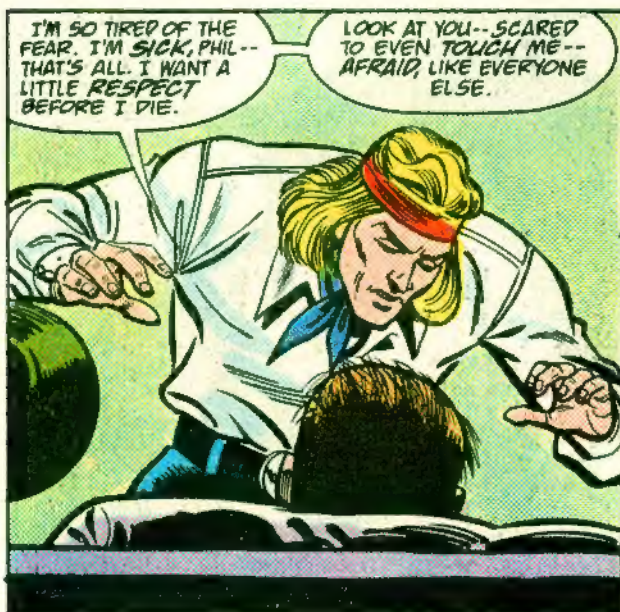
JESUS-- THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING I CAN DO--!

YOU MEAN LIKE IN YOUR MOVIES? PICK UP A MACHINE GUN AND BLAST THE BAD GUYS? THERE ARE NO BAD GUYS, PHILLY. JUST BUSINESS AS USUAL.



SEE, NOBODY'S REALLY INTERESTED. A BABY FALLS DOWN A WELL AND SHE GETS A PHONE CALL FROM THE PRESIDENT.

BUT WHEN A FAMILY IS BURNED OUT OF THEIR HOME BECAUSE THEIR TEENAGE SON TESTS AIDS POSITIVE-- THE SILENCE IS DEAFENING.



I'M SO TIRED OF THE FEAR. I'M SICK, PHIL-- THAT'S ALL. I WANT A LITTLE RESPECT BEFORE I DIE.

LOOK AT YOU-- SCARED TO EVEN TOUCH ME-- AFRAID, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.



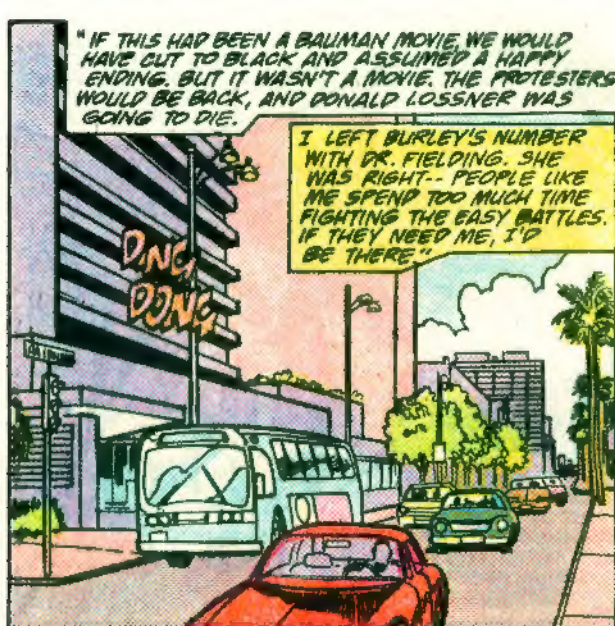
I AM AFRAID-- GOD, I'M SORRY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO--

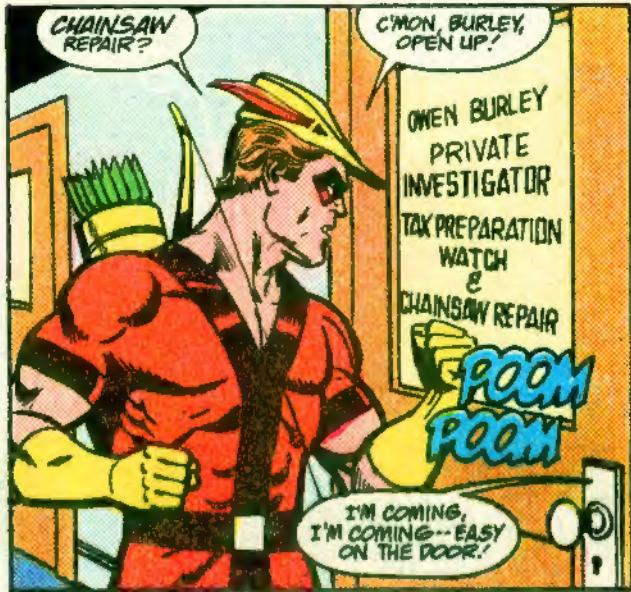
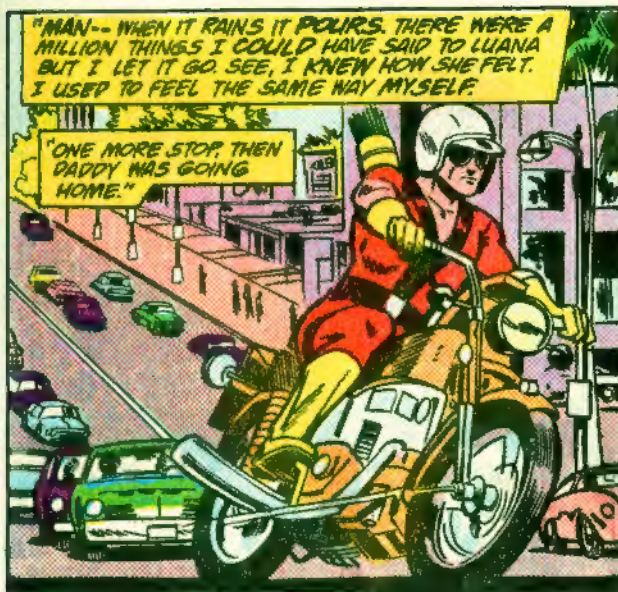
JUST HOLD ME, PHILLY. IT'S NOT THAT HARD.



KID, I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. KEEP THE BIKE. YOU DID A GOOD JOB.

I'D LIKE A MOMENT TO BE ALONE WITH MY BROTHER.





NEXT WEEK: A SPECIAL HUMAN TARGET ADVENTURE! BUT LOOK FOR SPEEDY TO RETURN IN GREEN ARROW ANNUAL #2!

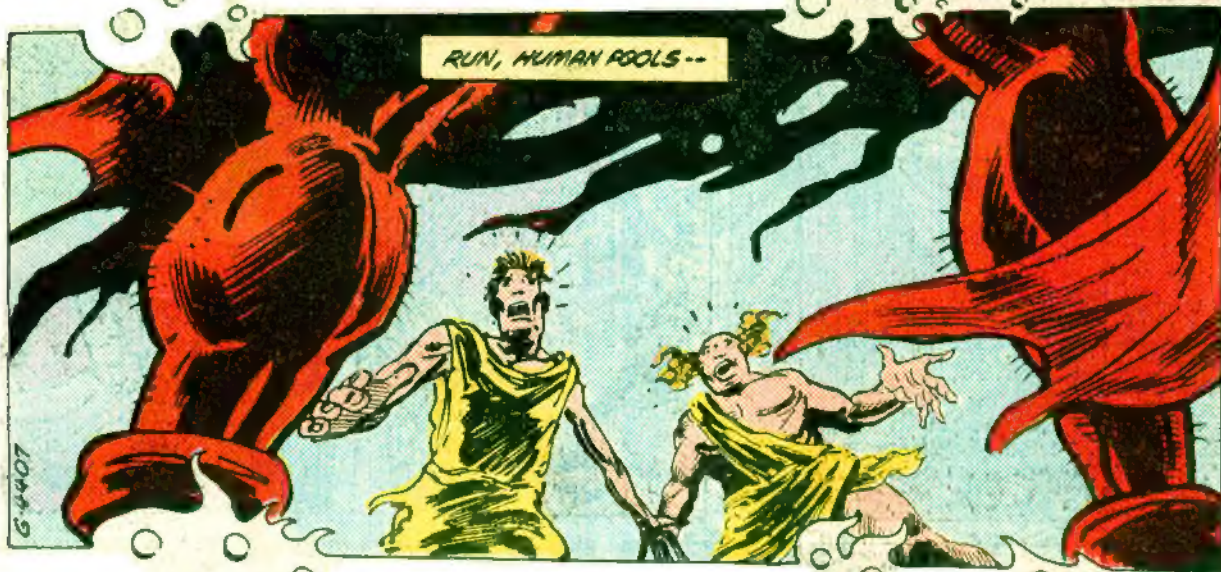
ABANDON HOPE

COSTANZA, letters • ALAN GRANT, writer • MARK PACELLA, penciller • BILL WRAY, inker • DAN RASPLER, editor • TATJANA WOOD, colors

THE STONE THAT LIVES!
MORGAN LE FAY RETURNS
TO SEEK HER EVIL WAY. HER
RESURRECTORS ARE THE ONES
SHE RIVES...



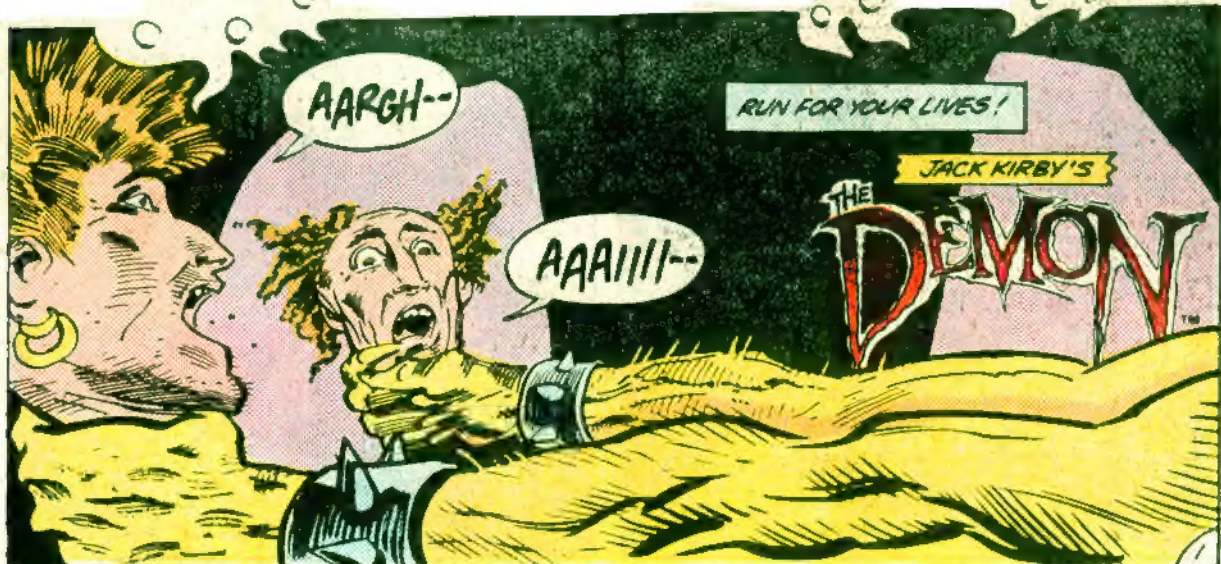
RUN, HUMAN FOOLS--



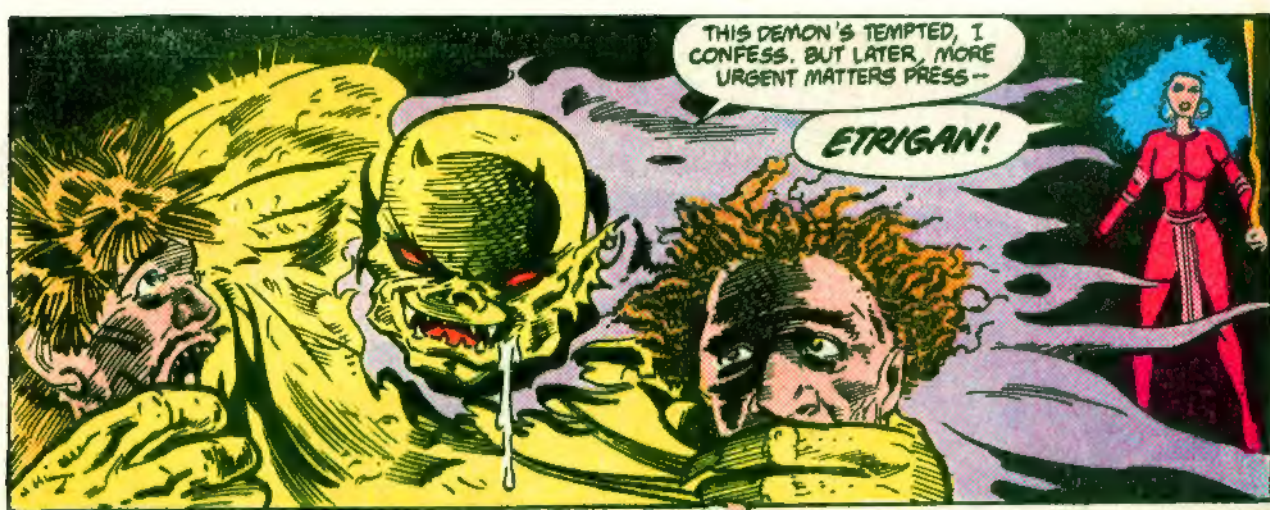
AARGH--

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

AAAAIII--



JACK KIRBY'S
THE
DEMON™

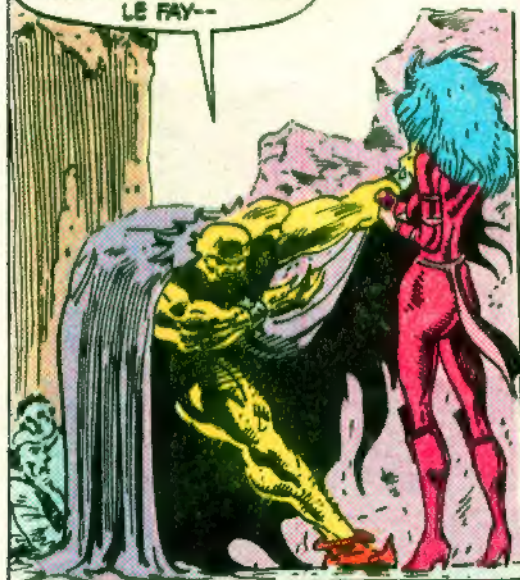


THIS DEMON'S TEMPTED, I
CONFESS. BUT LATER, MORE
URGENT MATTERS PRESS--

ETRIGAN!

I, INDEED! AND PLEASED TO SEE YOU
ONCE AGAIN -- PLEASED TO KNOW YOU'RE
DEEP IN ARM. YOUR ARM, I SEE,
ENDS AT THE WRIST. I GATHER THAT
THE LIMB IS MISSED?

WAS IT LOST? DID YOU
ABANDON IT? OH NO,
LE FAY--



ETRIGAN
SURELY HAD A
HAND IN IT!
HAHAHAHA!

YOU MOCK ME ONCE
TOO OFTEN, LACKEY
OF MERLIN! I VOW
YOU --



NEVERMORE!



EXCELLENT! IT IS AS I
REMEMBER -- YOU ALWAYS
DID WAKE IN A TEMPER.
YOUR FURY BY YOUR POWER
I GAUGE...



I'LL DINE FULL WELL UPON YOUR RAGE! I'LL SKIN YOUR HIDE AND DRINK YOUR BILE! I'LL SMEAR YOUR CORPSE WITH--



AAAAAAA



BIG WORDS, LITTLE DEMON!

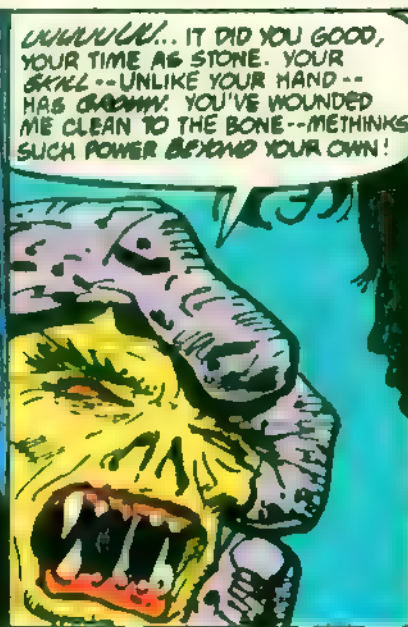
BUT THAT ALWAYS WAS YOUR TROUBLE--ALL BLOW AND NO SHOW!



NOW THE TABLES TURN. I SPEAK THE VERSE, EH? INDULGE MY WHIM--



SCREAM FOR MERCY!



UUUUUU... IT DID YOU GOOD, YOUR TIME AS STONE. YOUR SKIN--UNLIKE YOUR HAND--HAS GRABBY. YOU'VE WOUNDED ME CLEAN TO THE BONE--METHINKS SUCH POWER BEYOND YOUR OWN!



THINK WHAT YOU WILL, PIT-SPAWN..

AAAAA

MINE OR NO, IT'S POWER ENOUGH TO SLAY YOU!



"THERE'S POWER HERE!
GLENDA, REAL POWER!"

I-I CAN FEEL IT, TOO, RANDU. AND
MERLIN'S STAVE'S GLOWING
BRIGHTER THAN EVER!

I THINK THE
PASSAGE IS
WIDENING OUT--



OH!

WHAT
IS IT?

THERE'S A
DOORWAY THE
LEGEND READS
"ABANDON
HOPE--"



--ALL YE WHO ENTER
HERE-- THE MOTTO
OVER THE GATES
OF HELL!

MY GOD,
RANDU!
WHERE HAVE
WE--?



MIND YOUR LANGUAGE,
DEARIE! THAT'S A NAME WE
TRY TO AVOID IN THESE
PARTS.

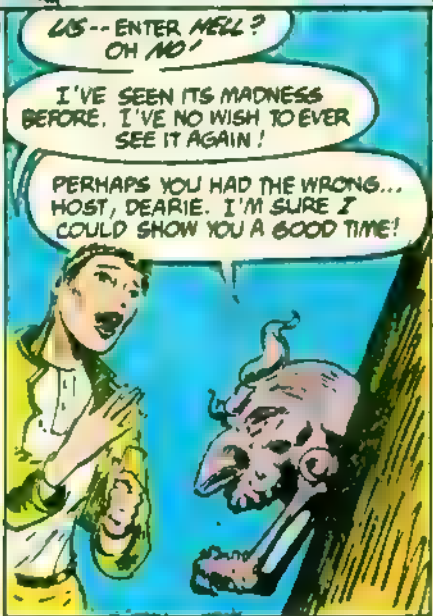
GLENDA?
WHO--?



RELAX, BLIND MAN, I MEAN YOU
NO HARM. I AM KEEPER OF
THIS PORTAL.

THEN WHAT DO YOU
WANT WITH US? WHY
HAVE WE BEEN LED
HERE?

NOT
LED. YOU
BROUGHT
YOURSELVES AS FOR WHAT
I WANT--NOTHING, SAVE TO
GIVE YOU ENTRY SHOULD
YOU WISH TO PROCEED.



US-- ENTER HELL?
OH NO!

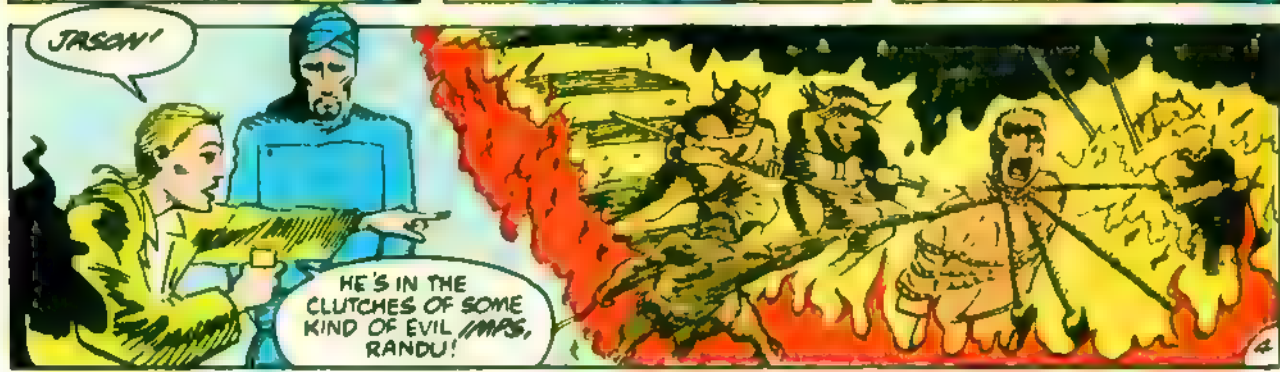
I'VE SEEN ITS MADNESS
BEFORE. I'VE NO WISH TO EVER
SEE IT AGAIN!

PERHAPS YOU HAD THE WRONG...
HOST, DEARIE. I'M SURE I
COULD SHOW YOU A GOOD TIME!



NO? YOUR LOSS,
DEAR, STILL, YOU MIGHT
WANT TO CHANGE YOUR
MIND.

BEHOLD--



JASON!

HE'S IN THE
CLUTCHES OF SOME
KIND OF EVIL MAFS,
RANDU!



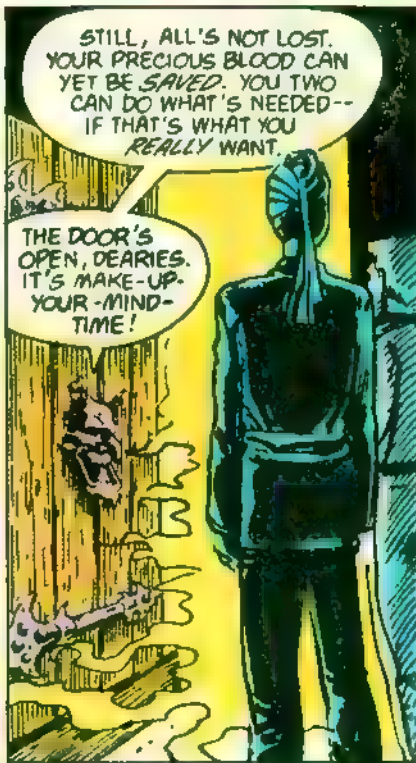
THEY'RE DRAGGING HIM DOWN INTO THE PIT! AND ETRIGAN--

ETRIGAN'S LAUGHING!



IT-IT'S AS IF HIS VERY *SOUL'S* IN DANGER! AND ETRIGAN-- HE PLANNED IT SOMEHOW! JASON'S DYING-- AND ETRIGAN'S TO BLAME!

AH, DESPAIR. I LOVE ITS CRUSHING ODOR!



STILL, ALL'S NOT LOST. YOUR PRECIOUS BLOOD CAN YET BE *SAVED*. YOU TWO CAN DO WHAT'S NEEDED-- IF THAT'S WHAT YOU *REALLY* WANT.

THE DOOR'S OPEN, DEARIES. IT'S MAKE-UP-YOUR-MIND-TIME!



RANDU, I-I'M FRIGHTENED. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANY MORE! I CAN'T JUST ABANDON JASON-- BUT THE THOUGHT OF GOING BACK... BACK THERE, MAKES ME CURL UP INSIDE!

OUR MINDS ARE MUDDLED BY DOUBT AND FEAR, WHEN WHAT WE NEED IS *CLARITY*!



MERLIN'S STONE HASN'T LET YOU DOWN YET, GLENDA. PERHAPS, IF YOU ASK, IT WILL TELL US NOW...



THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, DEARIE!



STRANGE THAT A MAN WITH A DEMON INSIDE HIM SHOULD MEAN SO MUCH TO BOTH OF US!



SLAM!

HAHAHA

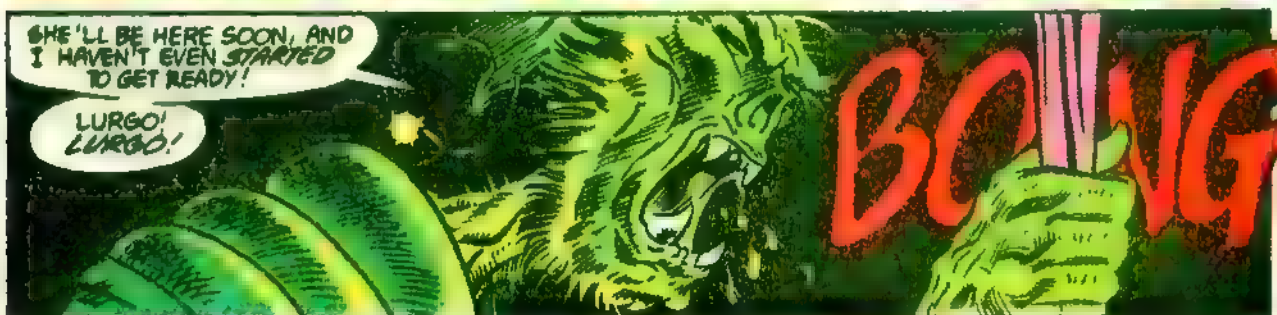


THEY'RE IN!
THEY'RE IN!
OOO-OOO-
OOOO!



WHAT DO
YOU THINK
OF THAT THEN,
EH, MERLIN?
TWO IN, TWO
TO COME!

VERY TASTY, TOO,
THAT GLENDA. OH,
WE'RE ALL GOING
TO HAVE SUCH
FUN!



SHE'LL BE HERE SOON, AND
I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED
TO GET READY!

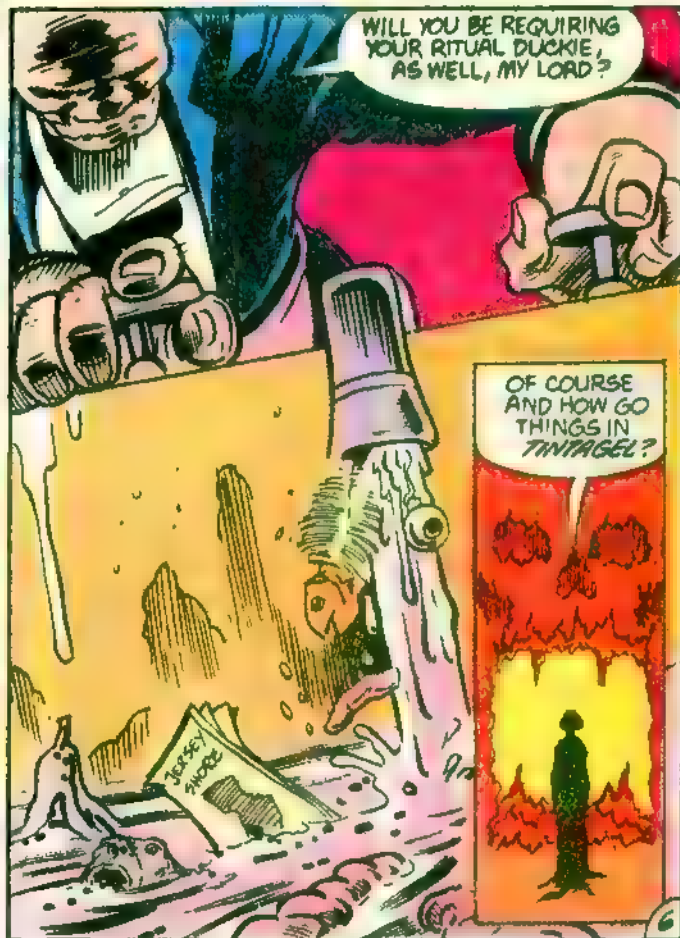
LURGO!
LURGO!



YOU
RANG?

I KNOW THAT,
YOU FOOL!

RUN MY BATH, AND
SET OUT MY RITUAL ROBES.
I MUST LOOK MY BEST IN
MY HOUR OF TRIUMPH!

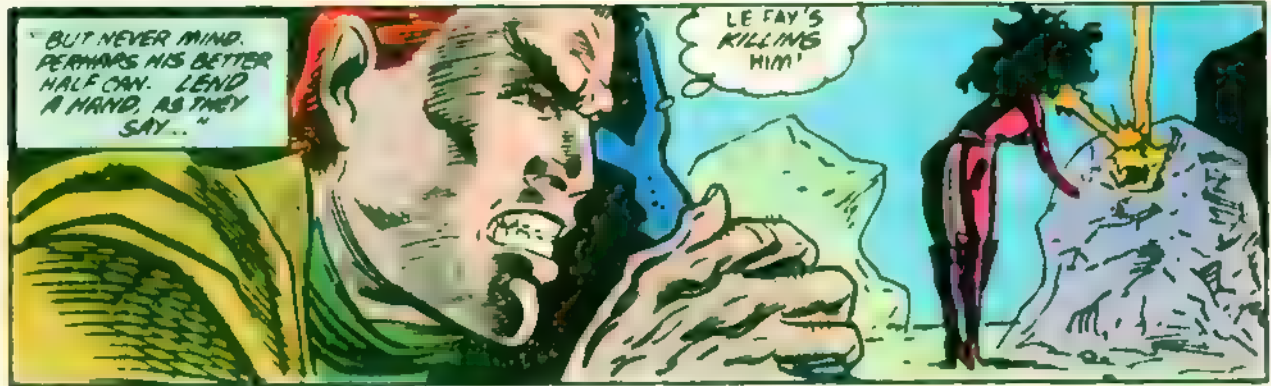


WILL YOU BE REQUIRING
YOUR RITUAL DUCKIE,
AS WELL, MY LORD?

OF COURSE
AND HOW GO
THINGS IN
TINTAGEL?



OOPS! YOUR BROTHER'S NOT DOING SO WELL, IS HE, MERLIN? WHAT? I'VE GIVEN HER TOO MUCH EXTRA POWER? RUBBISH!



BUT NEVER MIND. PERHAPS HIS BETTER HALF CAN. LEND A HAND, AS THEY SAY...

LE FAY'S KILLING HIM!



I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN. IF ETRIGAN DIES, SO DO I! WHAT MAGIC I KNOW WOULD BE USELESS AGAINST A SCORCESS LIKE HER.

BUT PERHAPS, WITH SYMPATHETIC MAGIC...



THERE IS ANOTHER WAY!

WELCOME TO THE PIT

HERO HOTLINE

Created by
BOB ROZAN & STEPHEN DE STEFANO

INKS: SCHAFFENBERGER
LETTERS: MAS
COLORS: GUY AD
FEB 1986 AUG 1987

HERO HOTLINE,
GOOD AFTERNOON.

YES, SIR...
GIVE ME THE
ADDRESS AND
I'LL NOTIFY THE FIRE
DEPARTMENT
IMMEDIATELY

HELP I
NEED SOME
HELP

NO, MA'AM.
MIXING AMMONIA AND
BLEACH WILL CREATE A
POISONOUS GAS EVEN
IF IT DID CLEAN BETTER,
YOU WOULDN'T BE
AROUND TO APPRECIATE
IT.

64480

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM, SIR?

MY NAME IS RODERICK C. BUTTERICK.
MASTER INVENTOR. I'VE CREATED A
PLASTIC THAT IS IMPERVIOUS TO ANY
FORM OF DESTRUCTION. TO TEST IT,
I PLACED THIS BOX FOR ASTRO HERE.
THEN I GLUED
THE LID ON WITH
MY NEW
SOLUBLE
SUPER GLUE
AND

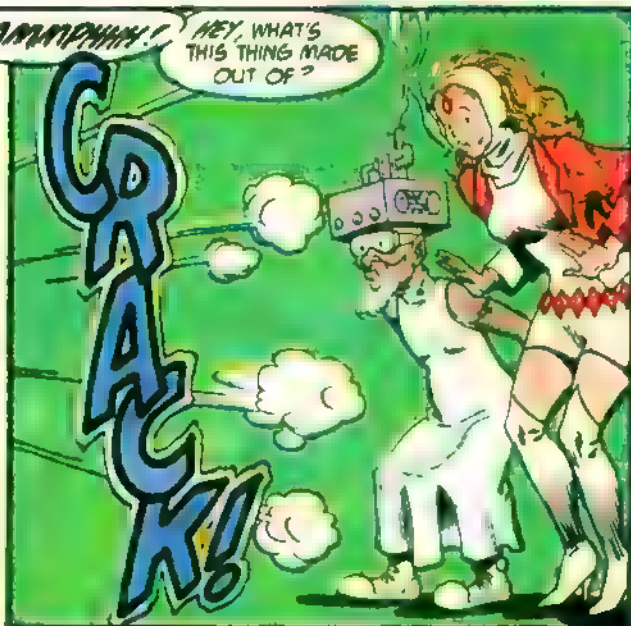
...AND, WELL, I
FORGOT TO MAKE
ANY AIR HOLES.
AND NOW POOR
ASTRO CAN'T
GET OUT.

MR. BUTTERFIELD,
MR. THEODORAKOPOLOS.
REPORT TO RECEPTION
IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM
SOOZ?

THE DOG IS STUCK INSIDE
THE BOX, FLET.

WHEN DO YOU GET
YOUR MORN MONEY?

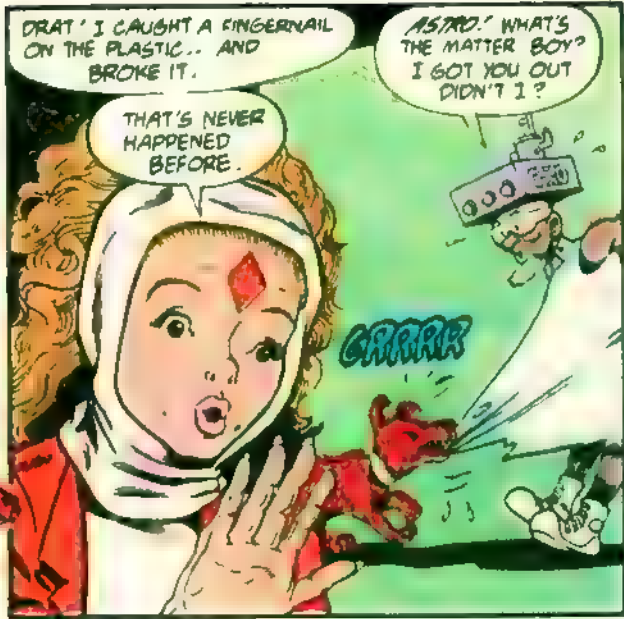




INCREDIBLE YOU CUT THROUGH MY PLASTIC WITH ... YOUR HAND!

NOT QUITE. I CUT THROUGH YOUR GLUE.

YIP YIP



DRAT! I CAUGHT A FINGERNAIL ON THE PLASTIC... AND BROKE IT.

THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.

ASTRO! WHAT'S THE MATTER BOY? I GOT YOU OUT DIDN'T I?

GRRRR



SOOZE, WHAT IS THE LOCATION OF TOM AND YOUNG MR. CLEVERLY'S?

THE PLATFORM AT THE BLECKER STREET SUBWAY STATION. IT APPEARS A... SITUATION HAS DEVELOPED.



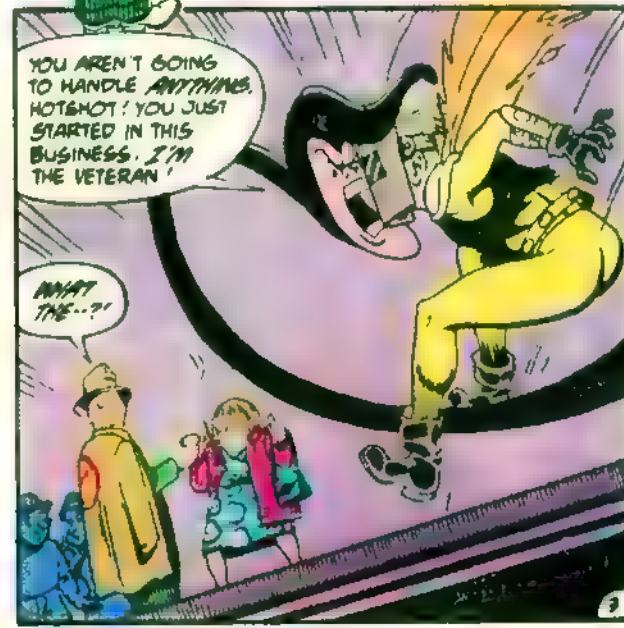
A MAN WITH A SQUIRT GUN FILLED WITH GASOLINE IS THREATENING TO SQUIRT IT AT A WOMAN WHO WILL NOT PUT OUT HER CIGARETTE



TOO MANY OF YOU SMOKERS HAVE NO RESPECT FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S HEALTH. I'M HERE TO SHOW YOU JUST HOW DANGEROUS SMOKING CAN BE TO YOU

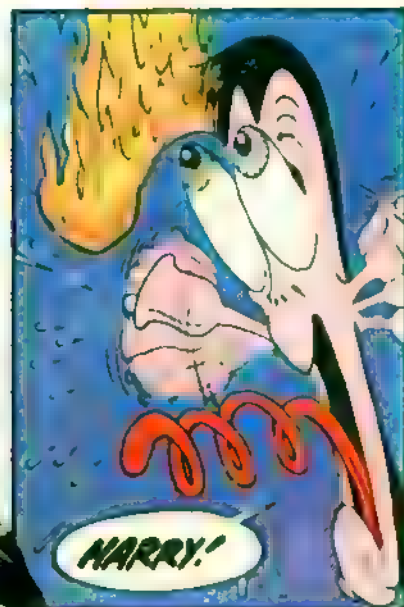
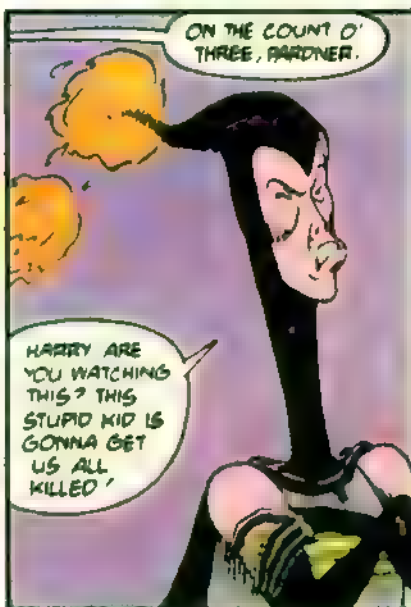
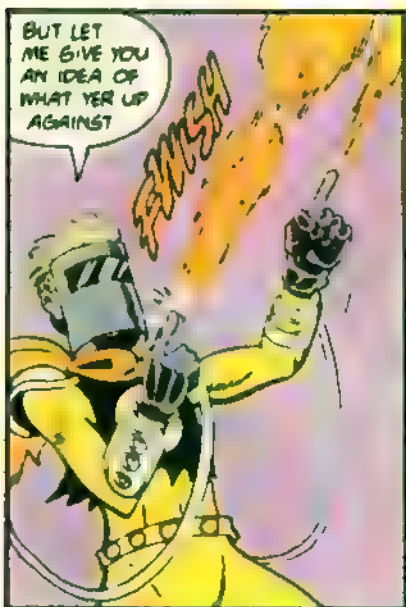
JUST BACK OFF, STRETEN I'LL HANDLE THIS

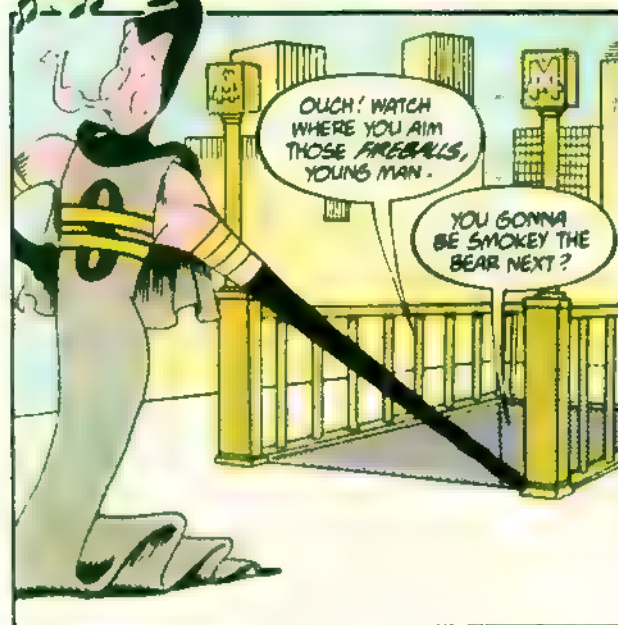
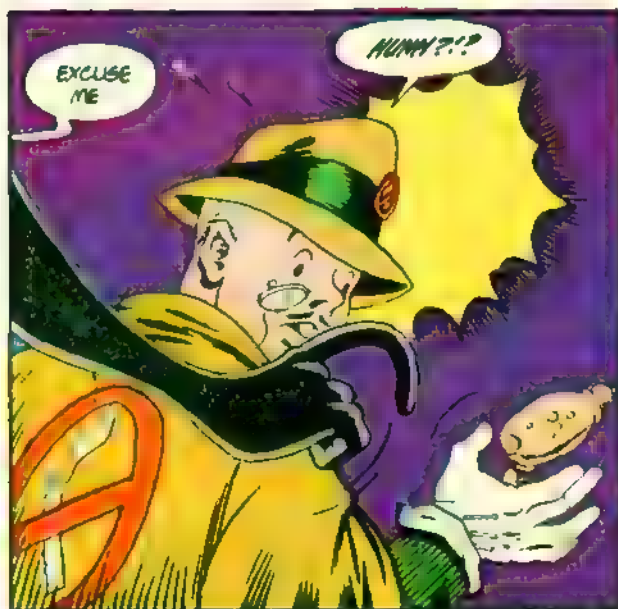
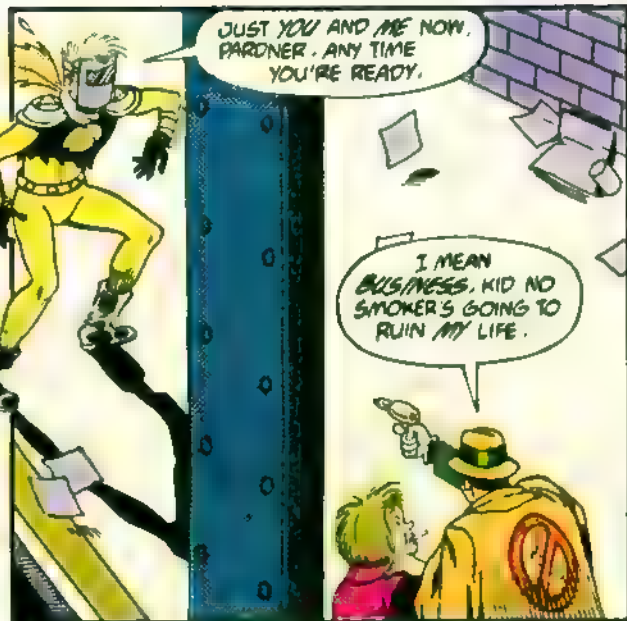
NO SMOKING

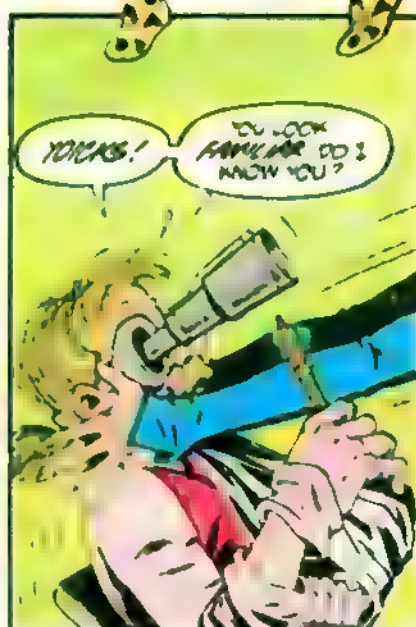
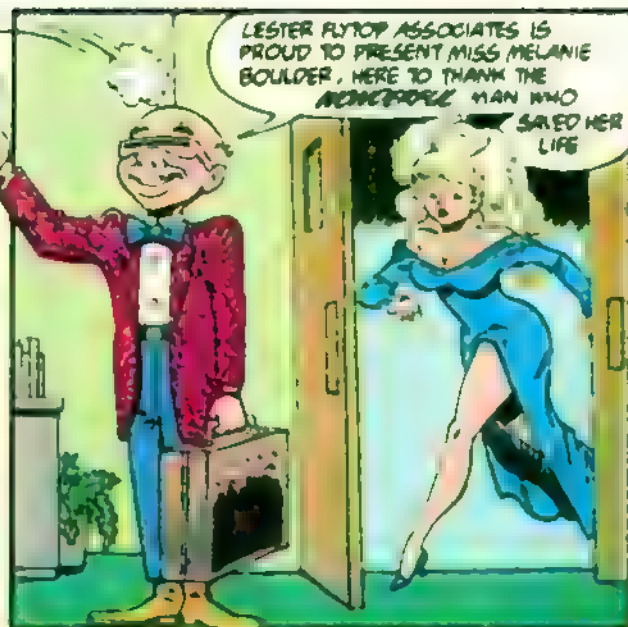


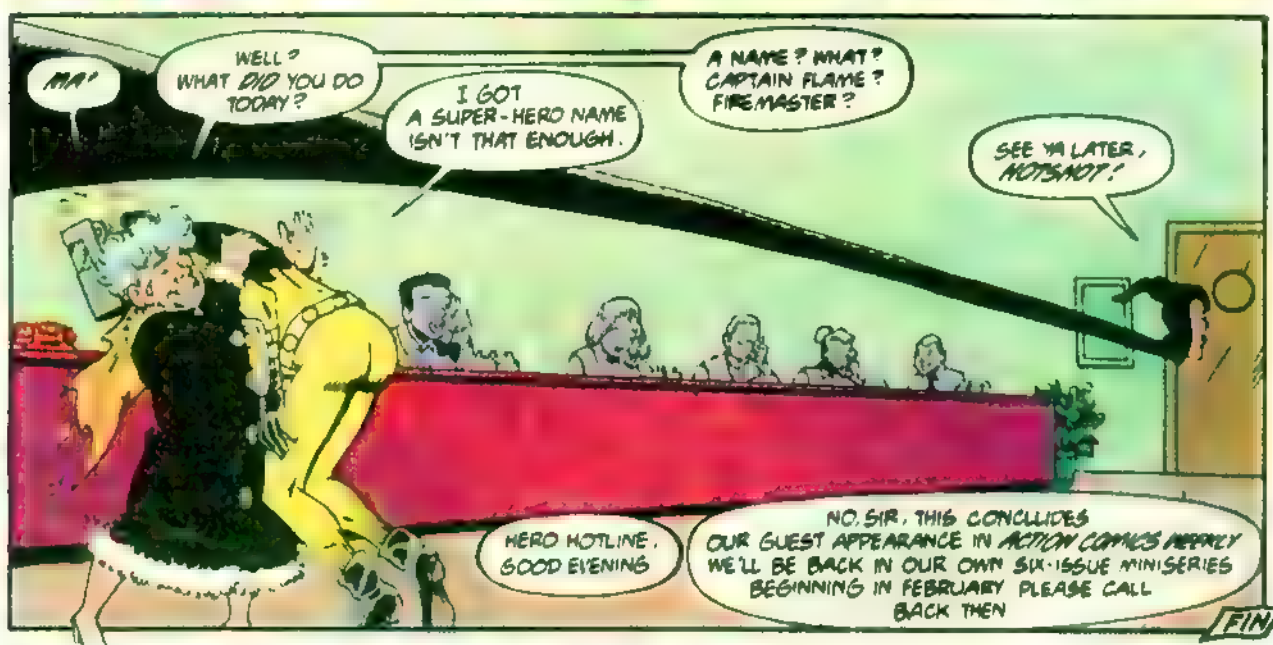
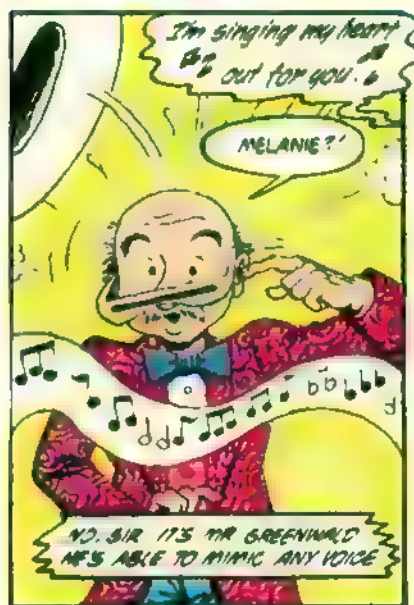
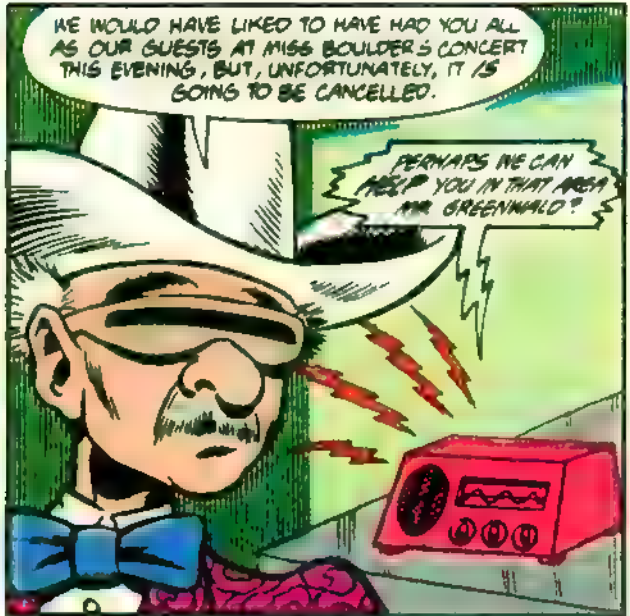
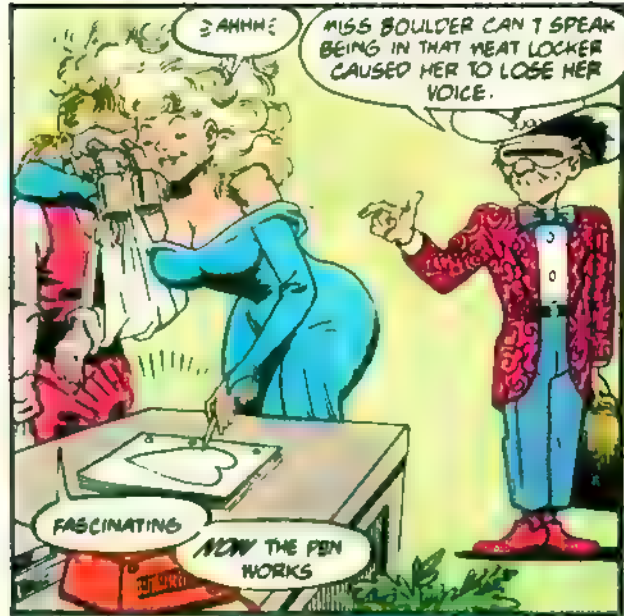
YOU AREN'T GOING TO HANDLE ANYTHINGS. HOTSHOT! YOU JUST STARTED IN THIS BUSINESS. I'M THE VETERAN

WHAT THE...?









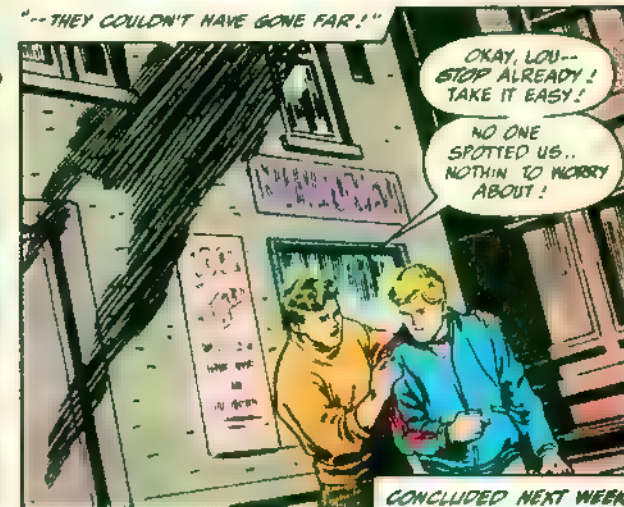
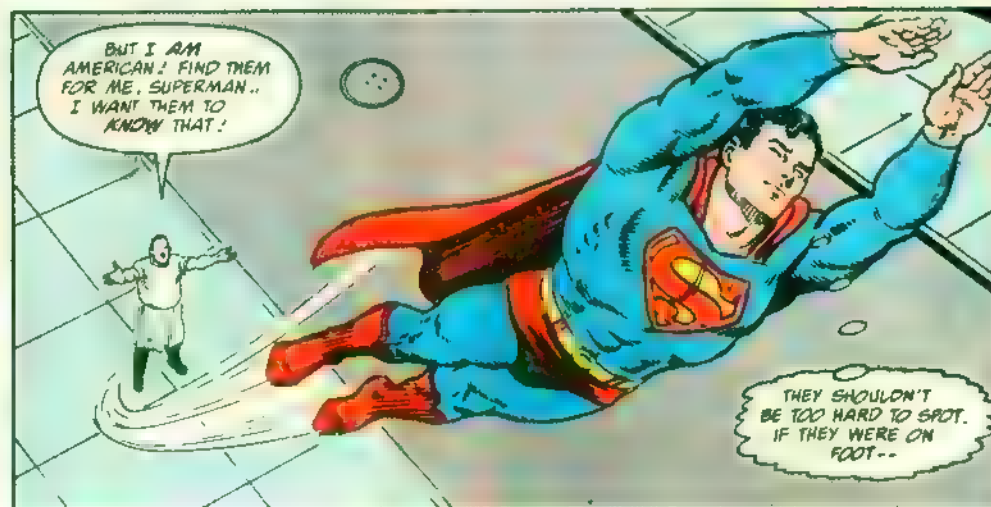
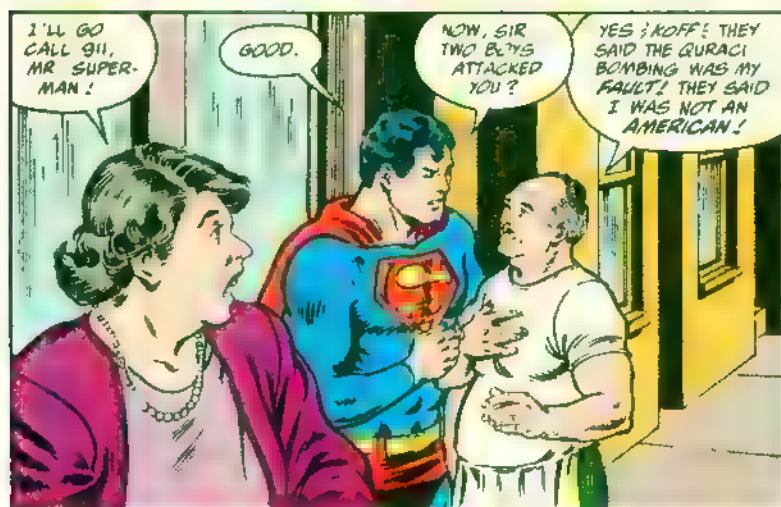
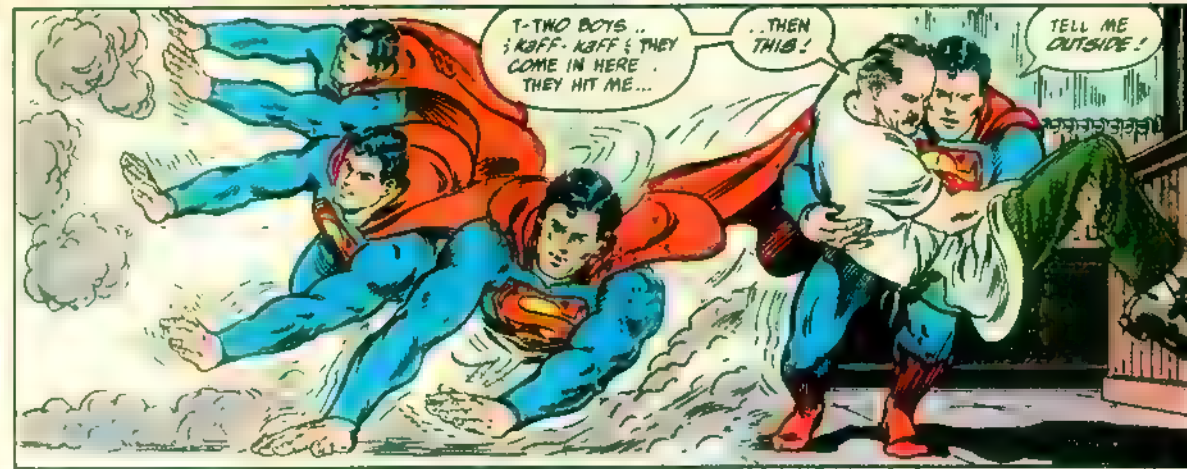
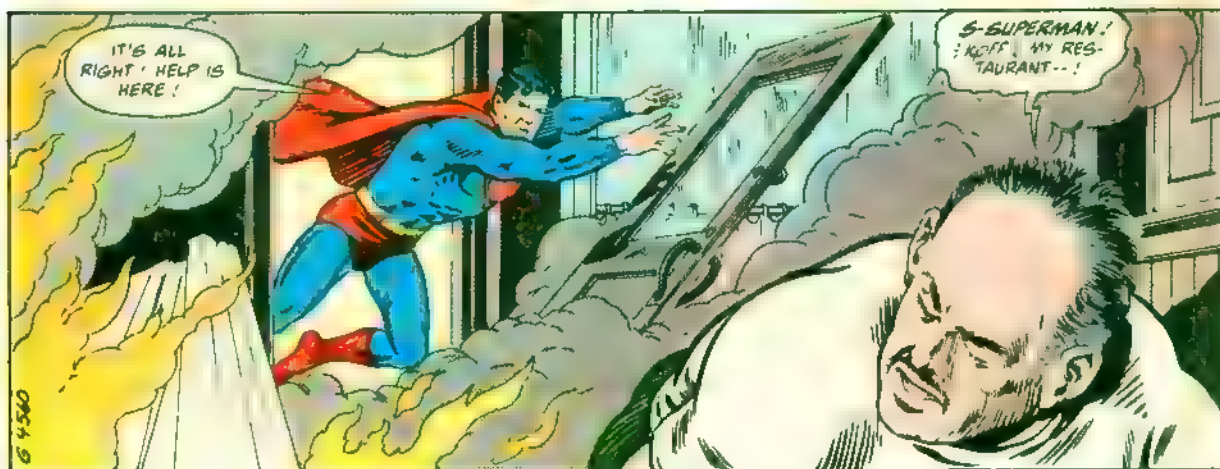
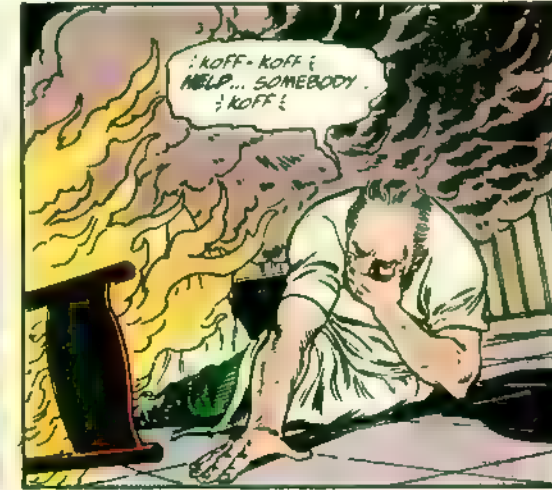
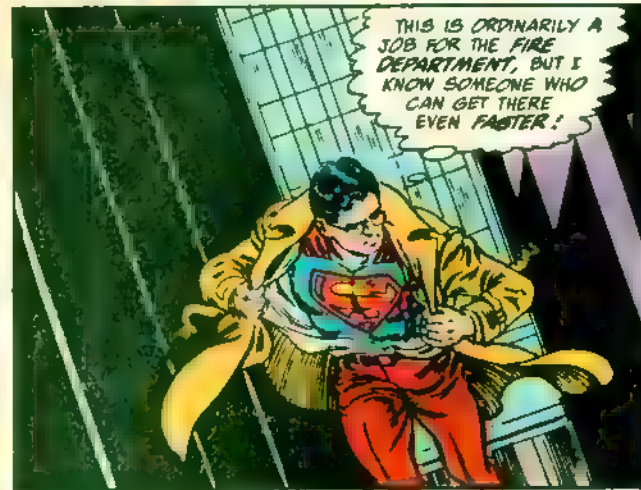
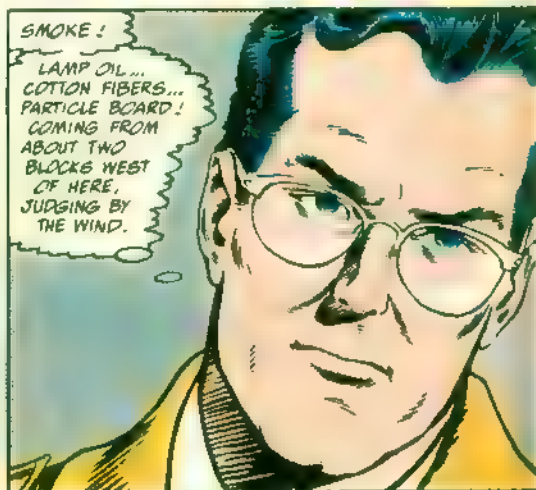
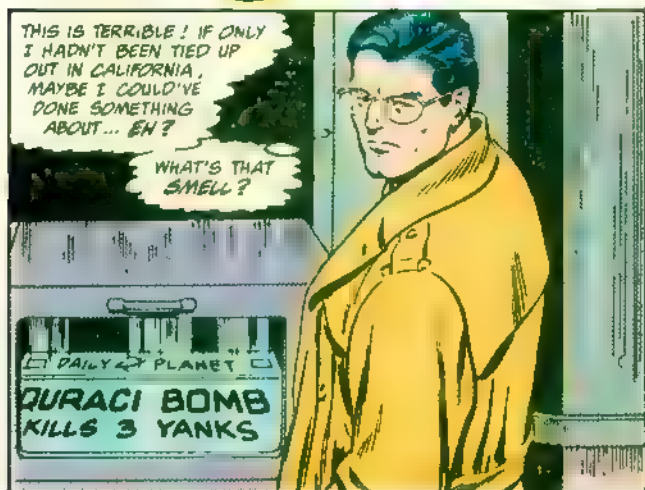
SUPERMAN.

Created by
"ERRY" SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER

WHERE

THERE'S SMOKE...

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZILUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR
Special Thanks to TOM PEYER



CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK!



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 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103
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L-3573

Mike
 The only disappointment of issue #629 was the lack of a letters page. I suppose that after 29 weeks of perfect service, I can allow you this small transgression. But don't let it happen again!
 My favorite was, once again, Green Lantern. This was followed closely by Speedy and Black Canary. The Secret Six took the fourth spot. Blackhawk fifth, and Superman sixth.
 I find it hard to believe that any group of "true Aryan" men would allow themselves to be led by a woman, no matter how large a bra she wears. Sometimes I think Pasko is crossing the line between using sex to enhance a story and using sex to sell a story. It's almost like reading an old Warren magazine.
 I'm not a prude and I do not mind seeing sex or the use of foul language in comics, as long as it is important to the story. I don't read comics to see big-breasted women. When I want to see tits, I'll buy the latest issue of *Penthouse*.
 So, answer me this. do you think a woman would be allowed to run a group of Neo Nazis in the era in which Blackhawk is set?

Ray Rizer
 422 Oak
 Elmwood KA 66024 0026
Obviously, you've never seen Ilse She Wolf of the SS. That was a documentary, I think.
I'm missing part of your point, though. Do you object to the fact that the leader was a woman, or that she was a big-breasted woman? Seriously, I certainly agree that comics (as well as the rest of our popular culture, although that isn't an excuse) tends to over-emphasize large breasts in women. And large pecks (and naughty bits) in men. We'll try to watch it in the future.
But as for those large shoulders in Bill Sienkiewicz's characters

.....

Dear ACTION,
 ACTION COMICS just keeps getting better. Issue #629 is a great one (with the exception of Blackhawk).
 Green Lantern continues to be fantastic. I'm a big fan of Captain Atom and a reader of his monthly series. Even though I like this series it has made Captain look bad and incapable of handling his super powers. That is not so! He doesn't normally think that irrationally even though he did try to put an end

to a Central American war. Let him think a little more reasonably!
 Now, getting back to Blackhawk. I read that after issue #635 in ACTION COMICS, Blackhawk will be no more. Hurray! In my opinion, Blackhawk never had any business being in ACTION COMICS.
 Nightwing and Speedy have been back and I'm glad. I loved the first story they had in ACTION and so far, this second has been good, too!
 Black Canary's a favorite of mine. I really am interested in this storyline and I like the way she has to play detective. Although these drawings are a little strange, this entry is much better than the last!
 Superman is fantastic, a little short maybe. The difficult decisions Clark Kent has to make makes this story exciting!
 One last complaint. Where is Wild Dog? I want him back!

Chad Swofford
 100 NE 74th Terrace
 Gladstone, MO 64118

He's here, Chad, although next week will be his last in these precincts. However, we've got that WILD DOG SPECIAL on tap.

.....

Dear Gang,
 Look, ACTION COMICS WEEKLY was a noble experiment but I think the time has come to admit that it has been a failure, from the standpoint of quality features, anyway. The only top-notch feature has been Green Lantern's, though the current Black Canary and Nightwing and Speedy stories are worthwhile also.
 Most readers seem to enjoy Blackhawk and Wild Dog each time they appear but neither strikes the right chord with me. Your Superman feature simply isn't long enough, and even though it has been improving over the past couple of months, it still hasn't been very good. Deadman and Shazam! were good but still had their problems—you get my point.
 I propose that you put ACTION COMICS back on a monthly schedule with Superman as the lead feature, done by a good (team of) creator(s). The current format should be kept, but Superman should command at least 24 pages, the other 24 could be divided among three rotating features. That way there wouldn't be so much jumble, and only

the best stories would likely make it into print. If there are no plans to give Green Lantern his own series again, then he should be a semi-regular, but his own series would be preferred. Think about it, people. I'd much rather have ACTION COMICS QUALITY than ACTION COMICS WEEKLY.

Stan Johnson
 (Address Withheld)
Will you settle for ACTION COMICS featuring 22 pages of Superman by George Perez each month?

.....

Dear Mike, Robert, and Brian
 I'm taking time out from watching the skies (don't you know there's an *invasion!* going on?) to send you a ballot on ACTION COMICS WEEKLY No. 629. Orson Welles and the people of Grover's Mill, N.J. guide my hand.
 1) Blackhawk—How does Martin Pasko manage to make so crowded a seven-pager so effective? Janos's inner turmoil, his "conquest" of Natalie, the fight with Claiborne, the menace of Frau Koblenz, and the invitation from President Truman... great stuff from first to last, with effectively used rain on pages 2-4.
 2) Green Lantern—This week, it was actually Captain Atom, but I didn't mind. The Captain fought the alien hard, and the alien made Moore's Rorschach seem talkative in comparison. Be careful with the fight next time, though. Hal and Nate run a strong risk of forgetting about the alien and the city in their battle, and all that's actually needed is a green magick/quantum field one-two to put the Randy Violent alien back into orbit, or on a peopleless world far from ours where it can repair its shrine in peace.
 3) Black Canary—'Knock 'Em Dead' is finally becoming entertaining for me. Sharon's pacing has begun to pay off, and while the psychedelic Bird-Lady (her wig is the worst offender) isn't quite to my taste, the mysterious, darkened Seattle comes off well. The plot, while still convoluted, is making more and more sense.
 4) Superman—I was pleased to see that the Consortium goons didn't explode when Clark (or Supes) neared them, and even more pleased with the introduction of the *witchy* Mother Tierra. What a kick to see a non-Kryptonian say, "Great Krypton!"
 5) Nightwing and Speedy—While

Captain Atom dominated Green Lantern, the Emerald Crusader was still on hand. This is twice now that Nightwing hasn't appeared in his own feature. Speedy is picking up more stature (and Cherie Wilkerson is turning out to be a good scripter without Marv Wolfman peering over her shoulder), and the glimpse into the Irish Question (or Tragedy, to be honest) through Moira, Button, Sanas, the Friends of the Empire, and the outsider Rdy is sharp. But without Dick Grayson, the billing is misleading. As Speedy and Nightwing, or just plain Speedy, this would have ranked higher.

6) Secret Six—August was, Carlo is and while the paranoia of all this is very today, the Secret Six got its start in 1968 when there was still an Us and a Them ... or should have been.

You established in No. 602 that the original group went on only seven missions—at least one of them had nothing to do with The Agency. If the group is so secret and so powerful, even the coming of the Messiah would not have stopped them from keeping the Secret Six active (Richard Nixon, I suspect, would have enjoyed using the Mockingbird).

Was Durant forced to go on field assignments or was that his own choice? If the latter, why would a man who lives one pill at a time risk his life further?

If Durant had to confide in one person—and if he was going to reveal his secret, it's difficult to see why he didn't tell the whole gang—Carlo was a wise choice, although Lili De Neuve's "scientific and administrative skills" were probably sharper. The answers we get 20-odd years later are good, but they're not that good, I'm afraid.

The real reason that this is last, however, is that the title given to the installment is so accurate: "Beginning of the End." Roy Thomas concluded the first series of ALL-STAR SQUADRON (not counting five origins, a recasting of a Golden Age story, and a retelling of the Justice Society of America's first mission) with a two-parter called "The Beginning of the End" and "The End of the Beginning." From the success of YOUNG ALL STARS, we see that the latter prevailed, but The Secret Six, it's hard to see a future for the strip. That being so, why did you choose to revive it?

I hate asking myself questions like that. But I continue to enjoy reading ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, and no Khinds er... Khands... er Khunds will stop me from doing so.

Take care, everybody

Charles J. Sperling
Apt. 4-C

37 15 Parsons Blvd
Flushing, NY 11354

We revived Secret Six because there was a great deal of fondness for the original series, and because Marty Pasko sent us a solid proposal for a one time mini-series. That mini-series became the 24 part saga run in these pages.

Dear ACTION-Jacksons,

Thank goodness for Speedy and Blackhawk! Without their presence in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #629, it would have been very lackluster, indeed! My question is, what will this mag do without the feature of Blackhawk once he spins off into his own mag?

Without Jan, one of the strips that continues to please is the Nightwing and Speedy feature. The emotions this time around were really well played. Speedy's comment on page 8: "Poor Moira..." etc., along with the little girl's reply were really tugging at the ol' heart-strings.

I think Superman has finally begun to hit stride, though it took too long to get to this point with only two pages per installment. Perhaps he can take over Blackhawk's page count in the rotation, in addition to the normal two per issue?

Some of the fog finally began to clear with the Secret Six this time around. The revelations were good ones, as were the retroactive motivations for the formation of the original Six. My confusion is still not totally cleared up. Perhaps you could pass the plot along to your friends over at SECRET ORIGINS and they could devote a whole issue to the Secret Six and their beginnings.

Green Lantern continues to disappoint this reader with its lack of cosmic focus and overuse of super-hero cliché situations. Black Canary also falls flat, though this installment was about the best one so far. That's still on a comparative basis. The strip still lacks fluidity of storytelling and is hard to follow.

John Q. Gerdes, Esq.
P.O. Box 343
Collinsville, IL 62234

.....

Dear Mike,

Re ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #629

#1—Blackhawk

#2—Speedy (and Nightwing?) So far, so good. This isn't a serious complaint but...

I imagine Nightwing is considered more of a "name" draw for a serial than Speedy. The first storyline as well as the current one features Dick Grayson in a glorified supporting role at best. I'm surprised that a plot actually centered around Nightwing couldn't be dreamed up. He has a lot of potential.

#3—Superman

#4—Black Canary Is it just me or does anyone else have a real problem trying to follow Sharon Wright's writing?

#5—Green Lantern I was glad to read that Green Lantern will soon return in his own book, but please don't assign James Owsley the writing chores. The last two plotlines were sub par for the course. Generic aliens. Predictable scenarios. Unimaginative hero opposes hero set-up.

If Peter David can't be persuaded to return to Green Lantern, then track down someone else who can offer a fresh approach to Hal Jordan.

#6—Secret Six

Whether the individual strips win, lose, or draw, the effort taken to produce this weekly anthology series is appreciated.

Hang in there

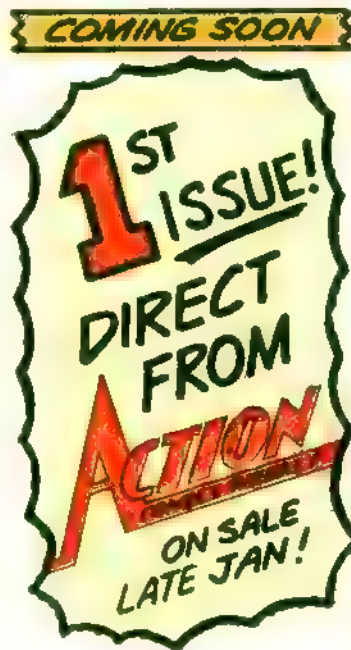
Mark Karcher
P.O. Box 29705
New Orleans, LA 70189

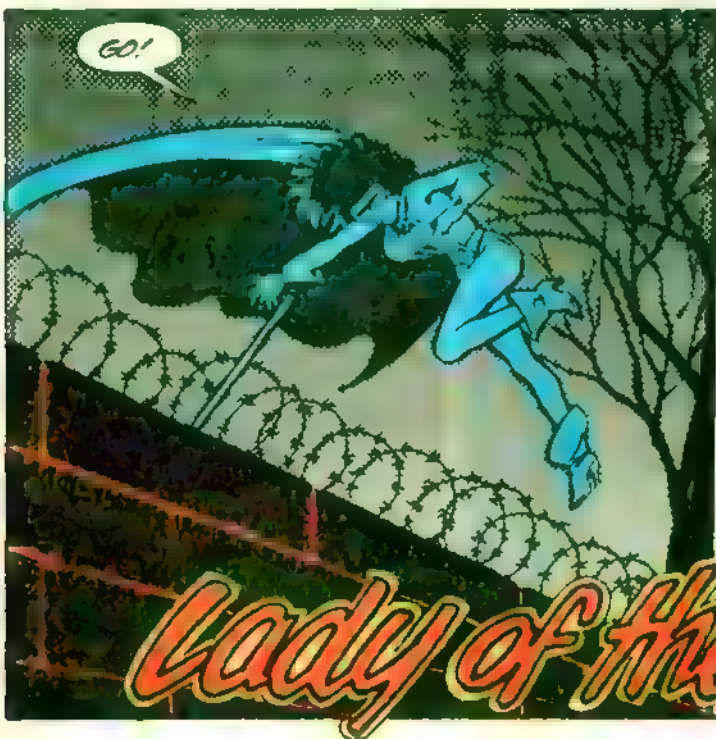
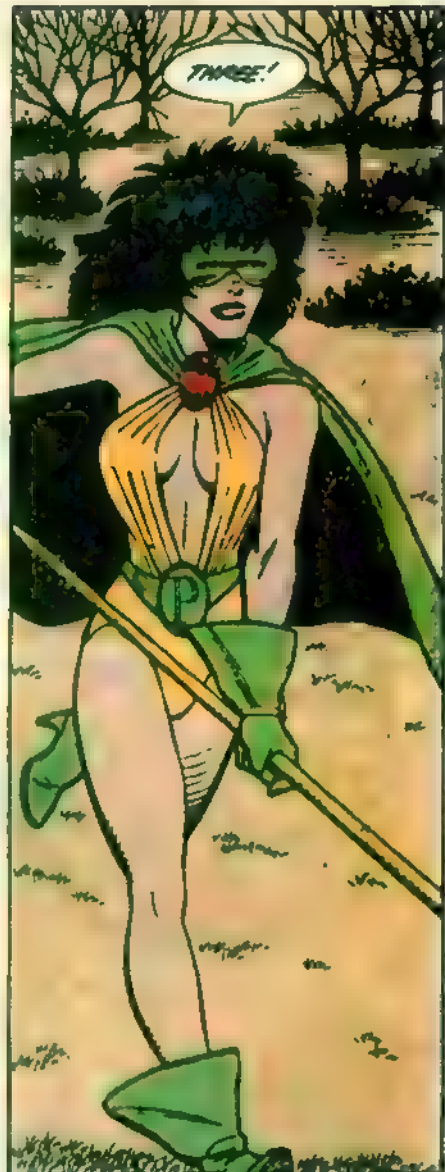
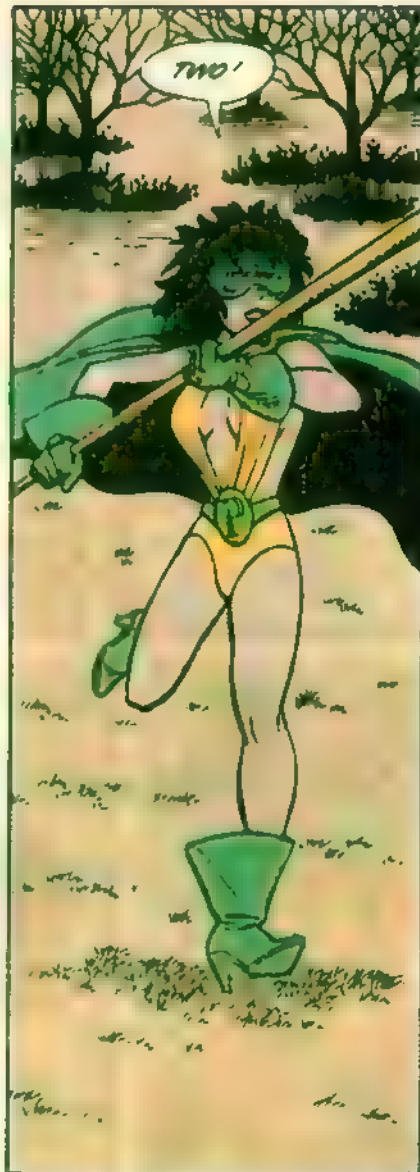
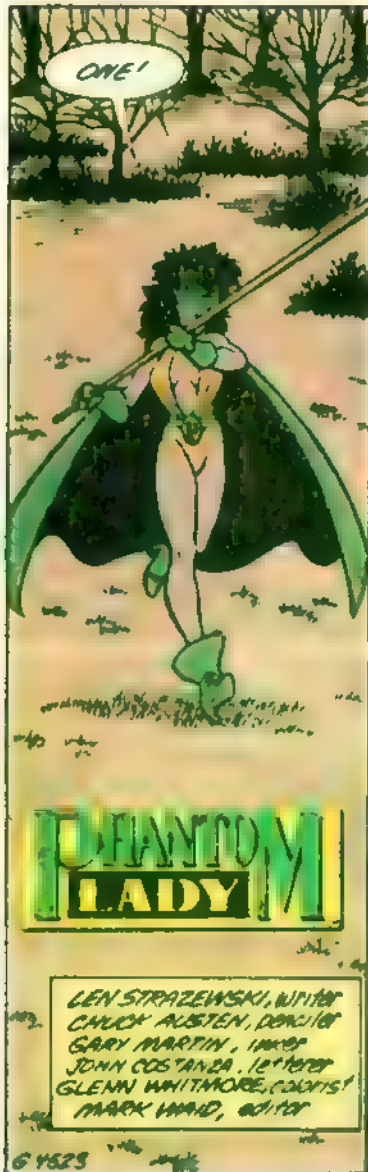
The interesting thing about ACTION COMICS WEEKLY the aspect I'll miss the most—is that you, the reader, have just read a representative sampling of this issue's mail. Nearly every feature was at the top of somebody's list, and nearly every feature was at the bottom. In other words, we'll miss the opportunity to offer such variety all in one place.

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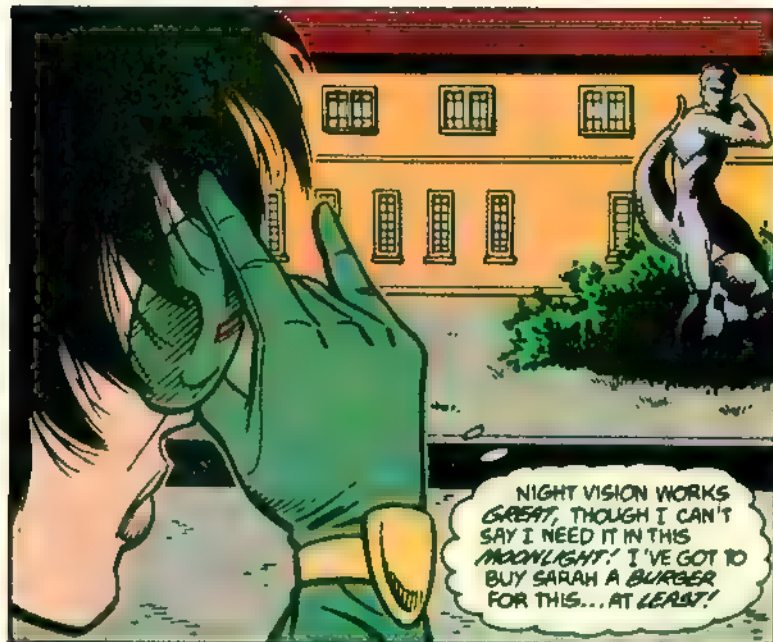
NEXT WEEK The Human Target makes an appearance, as we conclude all our present storylines. And in two weeks our second big crossover issue!

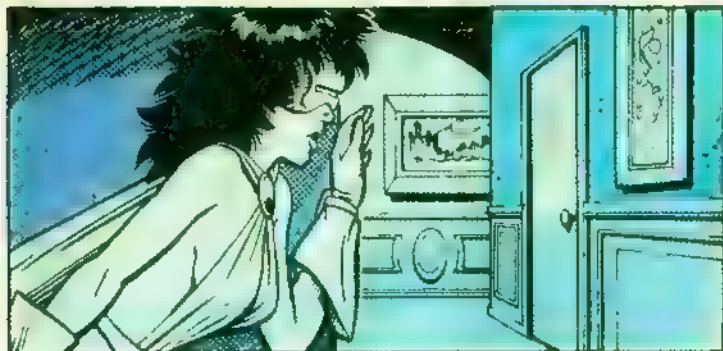
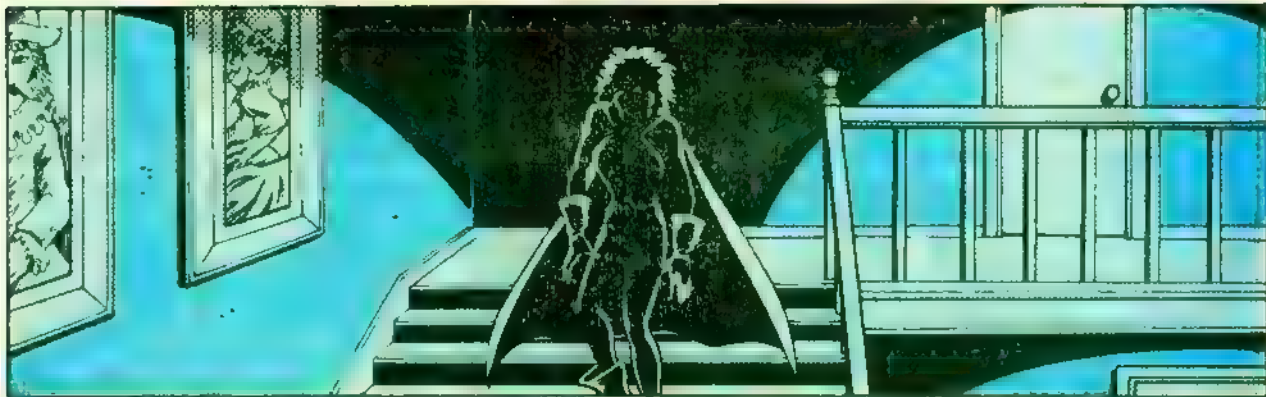
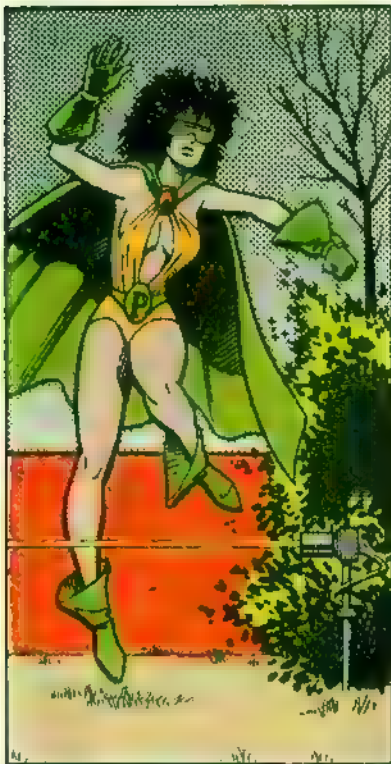
—Mike Gold

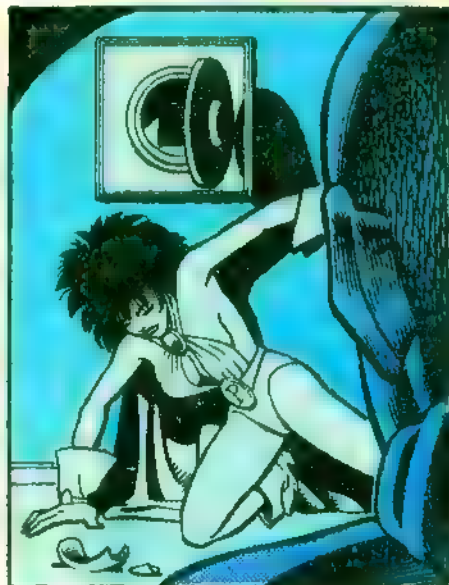
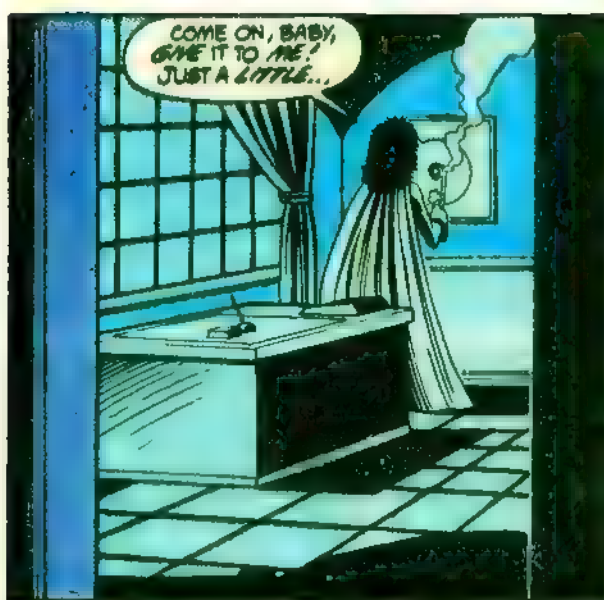


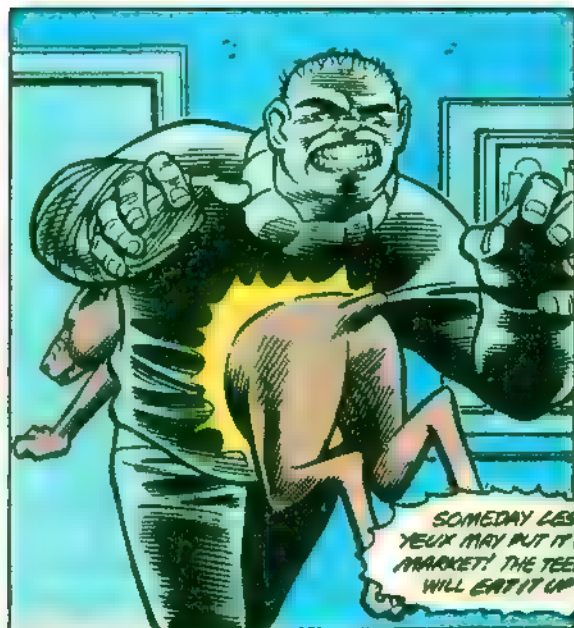


Lady of the House

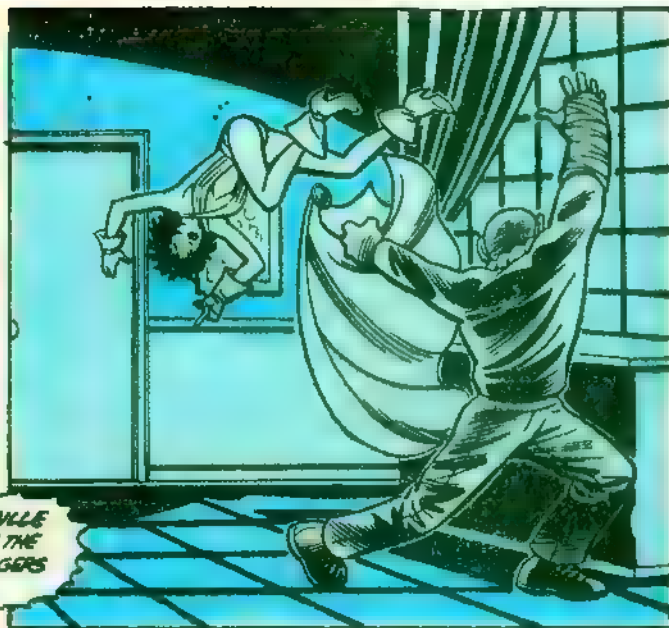








SOMEDAY LES ANGLE
YEUX MAY PUT IT ON THE
MARKET! THE TEENAGERS
WILL EAT IT UP!



ERGN!

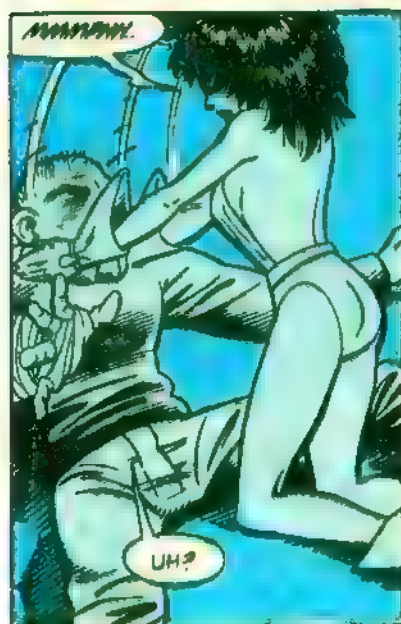


GOOR...



CRASH

MUMPHAN...



MUMPHAN...

UH?



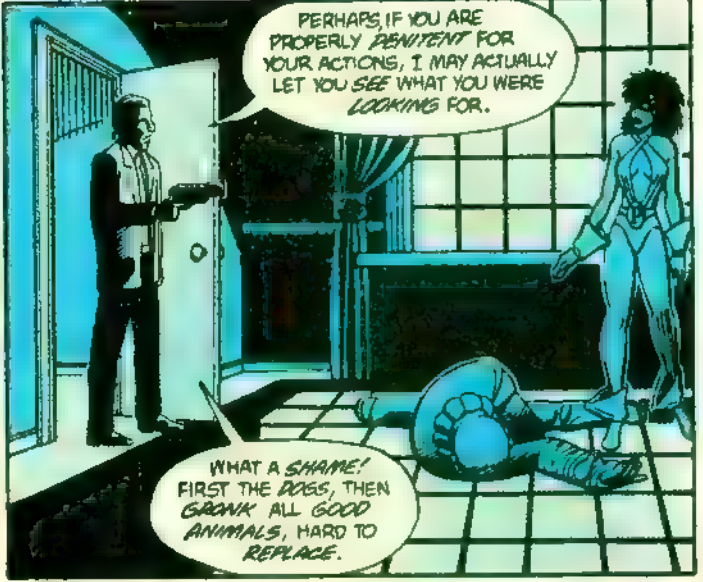
WHAT'S THE
MATTER, GRONK...
CAT GOT YOUR
WINDPIPE?



(WIGGS)
OH... GAD...
AIR!



PLEASE, MY DEAR--
IT'S UNLADYLIKE TO GROVEL
IN THE SHADOWS. COME OUT
IN THE LIGHT AND LET ME
KILL YOU!



PERHAPS IF YOU ARE
PROPERLY PENITENT FOR
YOUR ACTIONS, I MAY ACTUALLY
LET YOU SEE WHAT YOU WERE
LOOKING FOR.

WHAT A SHAME!
FIRST THE DOGS, THEN
BROOK ALL GOOD
ANIMALS, HARD TO
REPLACE.



COME NOW, DON'T
MAKE ME SHOOT
IN THE DARK. I
MIGHT MISS
AND DESTROY
AN ANTIQUE.

YOU'VE BEEN A
WONDERFUL OPPONENT
... LET ME SEE YOUR
FACE.



ALL RIGHT, YOU
MONSTER... TAKE
A GOOD LOOK!



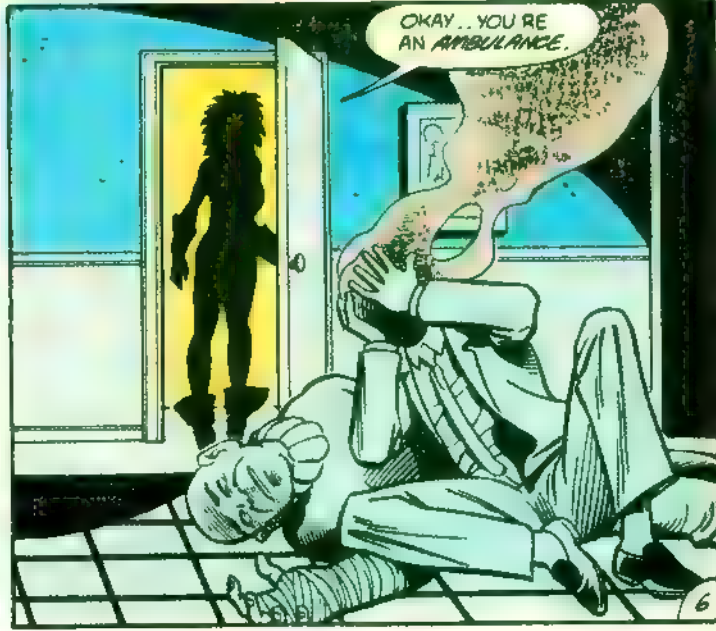
I'VE SEEN
YOU BEFORE..
YARRRGHH!

SSSSSSSS



AAAAHHHH...

HURTS LIKE HELL,
DOESN'T IT? YOU PROBABLY
WANT ME TO CALL YOU
AN AMBULANCE.



OKAY.. YOU'RE
AN AMBULANCE.

DEE, WHAT'S
WRONG?

MY GOD!
IT CAN'T BE?
NOT HIM!



NEXT:
**LADY
LOST**

WILD DOG



CRACK UP

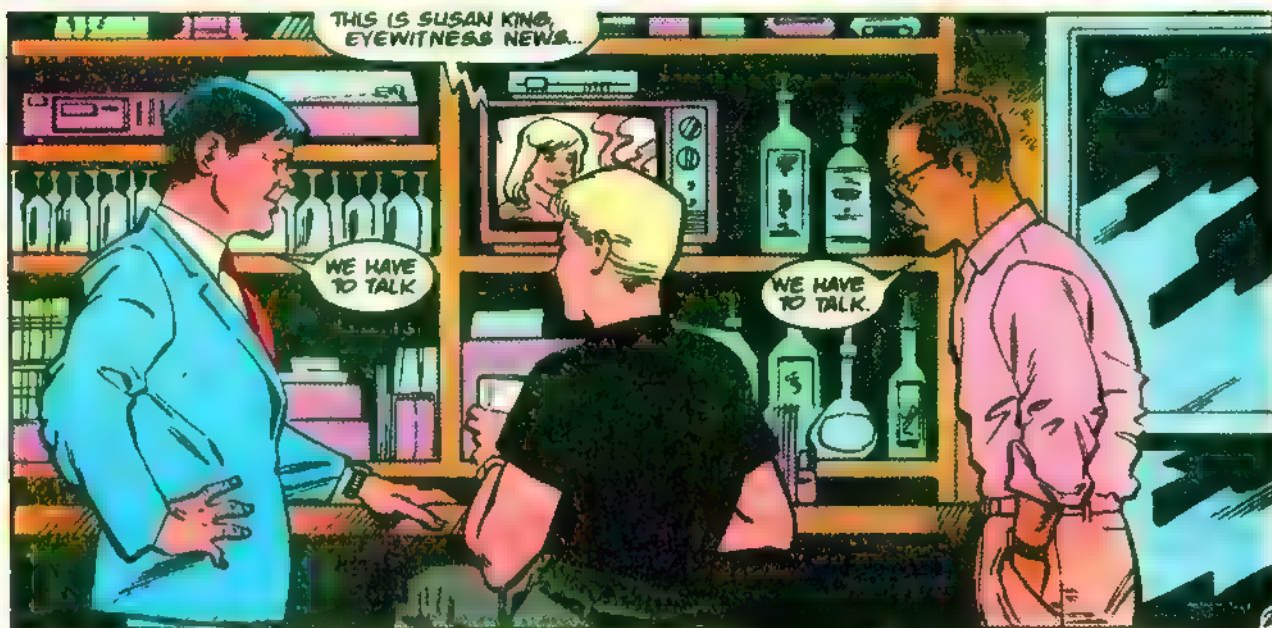
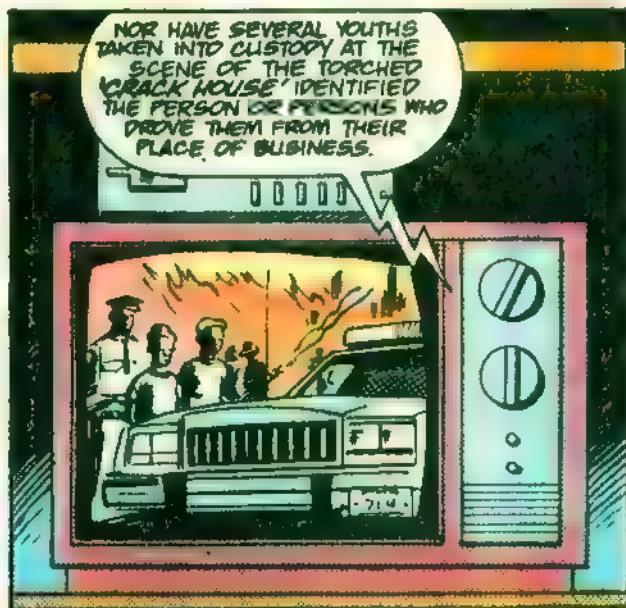
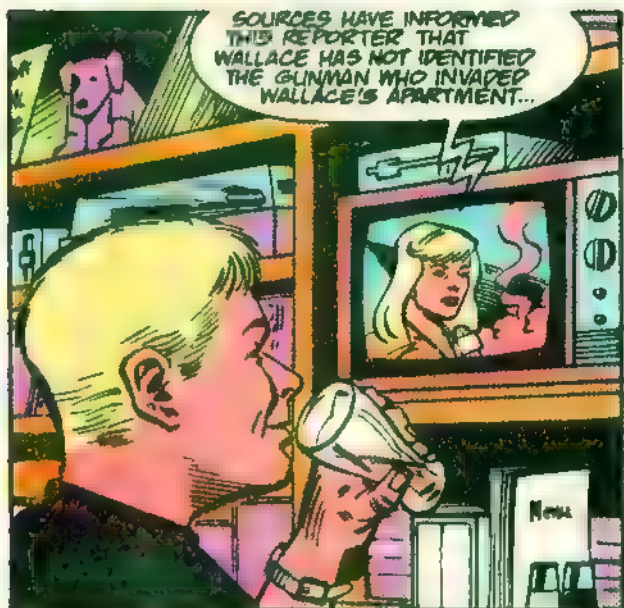
MAX COLLINS TERRY DEATY
WRITER • CO-CREATORS • PLANNERS
JOHN NYBERG CARL GIFFORD
PAPER CLAYTON
TIM MORTON'S BRIAN AUGUSTIN
LETTERER EDITOR

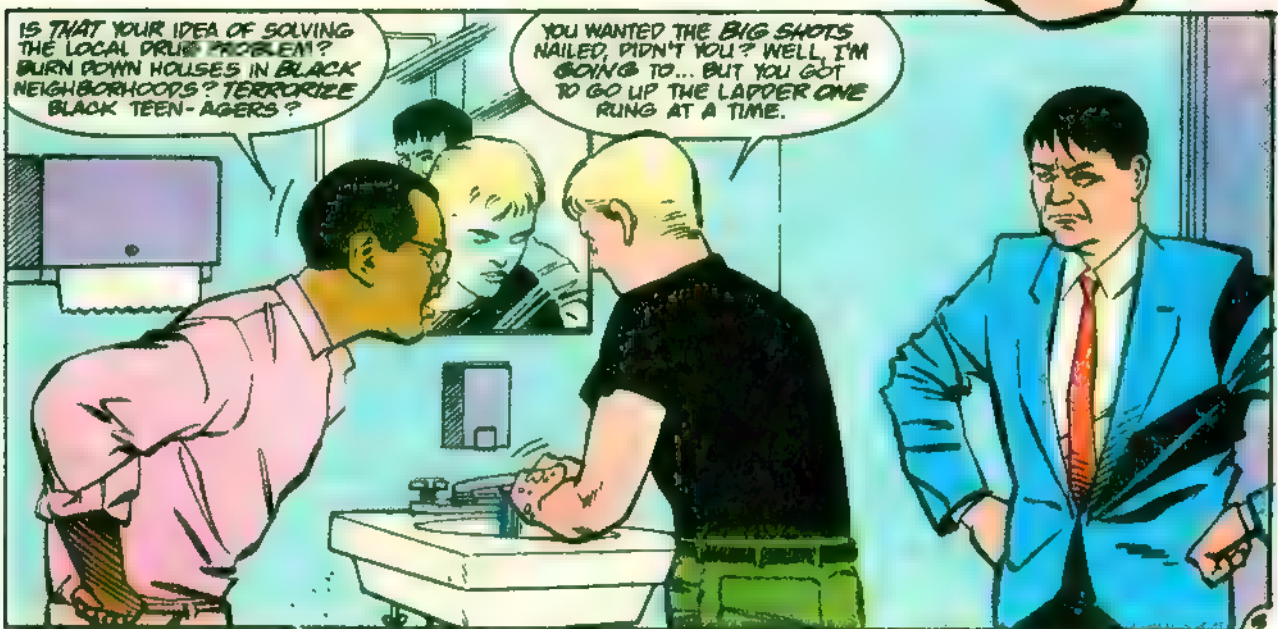
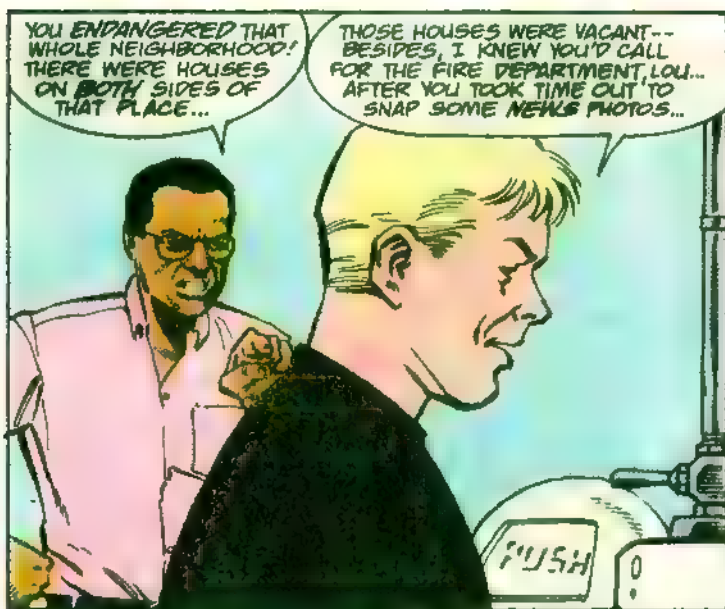
Chapter 5
BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

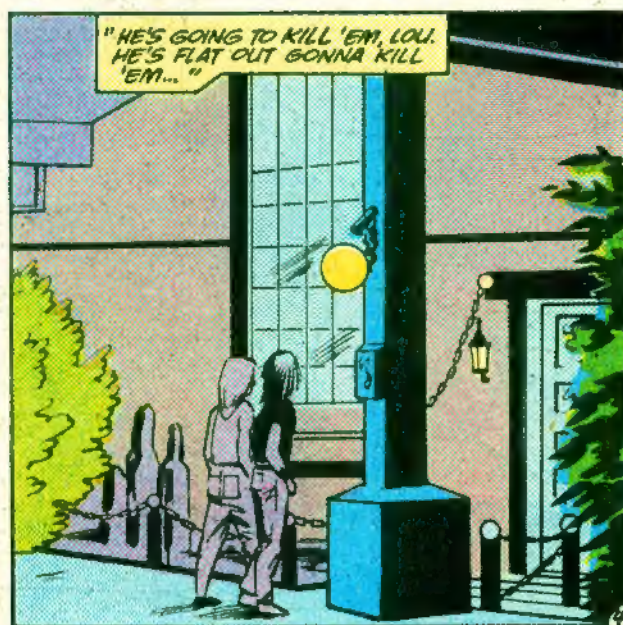
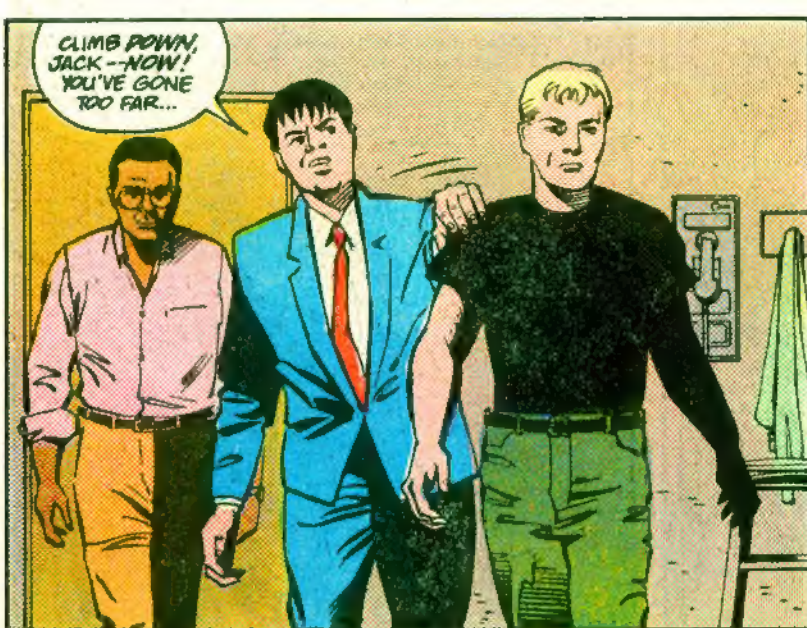


"IN WHAT IS APPARENTLY A RELATED INCIDENT, WILLIAM WALLACE, IT WAS ARRESTED BY POLICE AFTER NEIGHBORS REPORTED HEARING GUNSHOTS COMING FROM WALLACE'S APARTMENT."

WALLACE AND A TEEN-AGED GIRL, WHOSE NAME HAS BEEN WITHHELD BY AUTHORITIES, WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AT THE SCENE. WALLACE HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.









"I JUST KNOW THEY'RE DEALING DRUGS UP THERE," SAYS THE DESK CLERK, "BUT SO FAR I HAVE NO REAL CAUSE TO EVICT THEM OR CALL THE POLICE..."

